



By James Kent
Kaitlyn Hummel was among key stakeholders to help break ground for Base Camp at Bear.

BEAR MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT IS UNDERWAY

On Monday, Nov. 11, the ground was officially broken for the Base Camp at Bear Mountain development of high-end ski-on, ski-off duplexes.

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BURNING BAN EXTENDED TO NOV. 18

The Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation has extended the ban on outdoor burning in Vermont until Nov. 18.



CONTEST: LIGHTING UP RUTLAND COUNTY

Get in the holiday spirit and brighten up the dark nights by lighting up your building.

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Downtown Rutland is poised for major change

News of Walmart's exit coupled by planned developments, including a downtown hotel and theatre expansion, has sparked talk of opportunity

By Kevin O'Connor/VTDigger

Thirty years ago, in the fall of 1994, Rutland City leaders eagerly awaited news of final plans for the cornerstone of their long-germinating downtown revitalization efforts: A new \$20 million corporate headquarters for the state's then-largest electric utility, Central Vermont Public Service Corp.

They didn't anticipate the bombshell headlines about to hit.

The utility would drop what it determined to be a prohibitively expensive project that November, the Rutland Herald went on to report. That led municipal officials to turn to a surprising Plan B: Walmart, the big-box chain the National Trust for Historic Preservation had tagged "Sprawl Mart" the year before when it listed Vermont as one of its 1993 "Most Endangered Historic Places."

The country's biggest retailer had stores in every other state when Rutland City leaders offered what few other Vermonters would: An invitation to operate — but only in an existing, soon-to-be empty downtown anchor space instead of the new Diamond Run Mall under construction two miles south in neighboring Rutland Town.

The smaller-than-average Walmart would open and thrive in the city's center in 1997. The Goliath of a mall, six times larger yet plagued like its peers nationally by financial problems, would eventually shrivel and shut down by 2019.

Then, this fall, local leaders were jolted by another explosive headline. Walmart is planning to leave its Rutland Plaza anchor location, it announced in September, and build a threefold-bigger "supercenter" with a grocery store and pharmacy at the site of the former mall.

The chain anticipates it will need at least two years to complete the local and state permit process and construct a new store for a projected move in 2027. That's both bad and good news for Rutland City leaders eyeing the change — and the

"I have a growth mindset right now... I think we have a real opportunity," Mayor Doenges.

Downtown Rutland → 7



By Kevin O'Connor/VTDigger
"Beginner's Mind by artist LMNOPI is on Rutland City Hall facing Strongs Avenue. It's one of many murals downtown.



Courtesy Killington Resort

Winter begins at The Beast

The Killington Resort snowmaking team is putting its new high efficiency snowguns to work — firing over 200 guns every time the temperatures warrant. Rime, Reason, Upper East Fall, Upper Great Northern and Superstar all have guns ablaze. Opening day may be soon!

Killington Resort's Mike Solimano honored with the Sen. Leahy Trailblazer Award

The Vermont Outdoor Business Alliance (VOBA) announced Tuesday, Nov. 12, that the fourth annual U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy Trailblazer Award has been awarded to Mike Solimano, president and CEO of Killington Resort & Pico Mountain.

The award, first given to and named for Sen. Patrick Leahy, honors an individual's lifetime of service in Vermont's outdoor recreation economy with special recognition for advancing advance sustainability and equity, investing in local communities and growing the Vermont economy. The award was presented in front of the more than 165 people who attended VOBA's annual Outdoor Recreation Summit and annual meeting, held at The Woodstock Inn and Resort, Tuesday.

"It is truly an honor to be recognized by VOBA with this award," said Solimano. "It's easy to be passionate about the outdoors living in Vermont. Working at Killington has afforded me so many



By Lisa Lynn
Mike Solimano holds the award outside the Woodstock Inn, Tuesday, Nov. 12.

opportunities to give back to this amazing place and community. I look forward to continuing these efforts in the future and many more great years of adventure at Killington and Pico."

In presenting the award, Lisa Lynn, VOBA board member and editor of Vermont Sports and Vermont Ski + Ride magazines said: "It took a village to bring Killington to where it is now and Mike Solimano, in his characteristically humble way, will tell you it's his great team that's at the heart of Killington's success. But it takes a great leader to build and keep that team. There are few leaders in the ski or outdoor industry who are as visionary and effective, collaborative and community minded as Mike. One of the reasons he's been so successful? He is out working with and listening to both customers and staff, and he seems to have filled in at every job at the resort, from driving buses to fitting boots."

Under Solimano's two decades of leadership, Killington has flourished, not only as the East's largest ski resort but also as a place to build careers in the outdoor and hospitality industries, a pillar for the central Vermont Trailblazer → 10

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Seventh Heaven Salon & Boutique reflects on past year, success in Killington

By James Kent

Hair stylist and manager Katelyn Stewart and owner Peggy Campney moved their thriving hair salon and boutique from Ludlow to Killington last year after the July 2023 floods made it impossible for their business to continue in their current location. When the opportunity presented itself to Stewart and Campney, they exchanged one mountain with another.

The Mountain Times first visited the Seventh Heaven Salon & Boutique when it first arrived in September 2023. A little over one year later, Stewart and Campney say the business is doing well.

“Fantastic” is the word Stewart used to describe her experience in Killington so far. “I think the community really rallies around all the local small businesses around here. I’ve been grateful since we moved here and how much support we’ve gotten. I’m always posting on my social media, telling my clients on there how much I appreciate them. And they do become like family for me.”

Stewart said the Killington community immediately showed support for their business. When they



By James Kent

Manager/head stylist Katelyn Stewart smiles in front of Seventh Heaven Salon & Boutique in Killington. The business will be expanding services to include nail care on Nov. 16, just over a year after the business relocated from Ludlow to Killington.

took over the location of longtime salon owner Erica Hurd, people were excited that someone would continue offering the services the town needed.

“Everyone around here has been very kind and with open arms,” Stewart said. “Everyone has really accepted us.”

Over the past year, Seventh Heaven’s wedding services has proven a big winner. “I’ve had a lot of wedding planners, especially from Riverside and Killington, recommending

us,” Stewart said.

Some of Stewart’s specialties, which include hair extensions, are also high-demand services.

When Stewart and Campney began their journey in Killington last year, Stewart alone provided services. But she’s since added another stylist and hopes to add another in 2025 if the demand warrants it.

Seventh Heaven also plans to expand its services starting on Nov. 16, welcoming a nail technician,

which she expects will bring in more clients over the winter. It’s a service her clients have been asking for more and more, and she’s excited to see that part of the business flourish.

Campney also mentioned that the salon is not exclusive to women’s hair. They also cut men’s and children’s hair, “making Seventh Heaven a full-service salon & boutique,” she said.

For more information, visit: seventhheavenvt.com.

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Chittenden recreation dept. requests budget increase

By Brett Yates

The Chittenden Recreation Committee’s proposed budget for fiscal year 2026 prompted debate at a Select Board meeting on Monday, Nov. 11.

Committee member Christian Stevens broke down the \$6,500 request: \$1,000 for equipment; \$1,000 for trail maintenance; \$2,000 for event-based insurance riders; \$1,000 for “spontaneous events” and miscellaneous spending; and, for the first time, a \$1,500 stipend for a recreation coordinator.

“We’re trying to put out programs, get people into playing basketball, soccer, Zumba,” Stevens said. “We would like to grow. We really like Pittsford’s model. They do a great job down there. They have a wonderful trail system, and it would be nice to have a map of our trail system for people as well.”

Select Board Chair Kathie Pratt pushed back, citing recent failures of communication and coordination between the board

and the committee, including, by her account, unanswered emails. She also pointed to the unusual size of the request.

“We had somebody who went back and looked at all of the past budgets, and they’ve never, ever given them that much money,” Pratt said.

According to Selectman Andrew Quint, the Chittenden Recreation Committee has not previously received more than \$3,000 from the town. Its members have recently considered going directly to the voters with a budget request on Town Meeting Day, but Pratt warned that, in order to receive its funding outside of the Select Board’s budgeting process, the committee would need its own insurance coverage, separate from the town’s.

The Chittenden Select Board expects to finalize its budget proposal for fiscal year 2026 on Mon., Dec. 9.



Courtesy of Sheila Pilsmaier

A new sign mapping “Killington Communities” debuts outside the Killington Welcome Center.

Sherburne Killington Historians unveiled a new “Killington Communities” sign

A desire to share Killington’s history at the Welcome Center resulted from one of their members visiting the Mendon Town Office and admiring the historic sign placement there.

When they heard that, the most frequently asked question by folks at the Welcome Center was, “Where is the town?” The Sherburne Killington Historians engaged Awesome Graphics to help design the answer: It’s many varied communities that make up the town. Specifically, three: The “North Sherburne community” (along the Scene Route 100 Byway), the “original Sherburne community” (on River Road and the Route 4 flats), and the “resort and com-

mercial community” (on Killington Road and East Mountain Road).

The Historians hope locals and tourists will enjoy the map and photos of the town’s many points of interest.

A QR code on the sign links visitors directly to the Historians’ website under Sherburne Memorial Library. The society plans to expand on Killington’s history with more details and photos on the site.

The Sherburne Killington Historians meet at the Sherburne Memorial Library on the second Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. All are welcome.

For more information, visit: sherburneli-brary.org/sherburne-historians.



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Notice of Availability: Draft Environmental Assessment

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) has completed a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluating the potential environmental impacts of the Killington Forward Initiative – Road and Water Supply Improvements Project, which proposes roadway, multi-use path, and drainage improvements as well as the installation of a municipal drinking water distribution line (the Proposed Action). The Proposed Action has been selected for funding through an NBRC Catalyst Grant. NEPA requires that federal agencies consider the effects of a proposed action and any reasonable alternatives on the human environment. This Draft EA evaluates the potential impacts that would result from the implementation of the Proposed Action as compared to the No Action alternative.

The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation, Water Investment Division (WID) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with NBRC to conduct a coordinated environmental review of the Proposed Action, as the water distribution line is funded in part by the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund, which is implemented by the state with funding from the EPA.

The Draft EA is available upon request. Please send an email request to nepa@nbrc.gov. The Draft EA will be provided in electronic format unless a hard copy is specifically requested.

A public meeting to present the Proposed Action and receive comments will be held on November 25, 2024, at 6:30 PM at the Killington Public Safety Building, located at 800 Killington Road in Killington, Vermont. The meeting will be broadcast on PEGTV 21 and can also be viewed online via ‘video on demand’ at www.pegtv.com. Agendas and meeting minutes are available at the Town Office and can be reviewed upon request. For additional documents, please contact the Town Manager’s office at (802) 422-3241, x2.

Project Title: Killington Forward Initiative – Road and Water Supply Improvements Project

Project Proponent: NBRC and WID

Project Location: Killington, VT

Purpose of the Proposed Action: If implemented, the Proposed Action would enhance infrastructure in Killington by providing municipal water services and improving Killington Road to address safety concerns and support multiple transportation modes.

Proposed Action Description: The Proposed Action considered under this Draft EA involves the reconstruction and partial realignment of portions of Killington Road, East Mountain Road, and Old Mill Road, and includes new road construction (Road H) north of the current intersection of East Mountain Road and Killington Road. The Proposed Action also includes the installation of the first segment of the Killington South Distribution Water Main along East Mountain Road from the Valley Wells Transmission Main to Killington Road and north along Killington Road to Ravine Road. In addition to the proposed roadway and water infrastructure improvements, the Proposed Action includes a paved multi-use path installed along the west side of Killington Road, a proposed stormwater treatment practice (gravel wetland) to treat stormwater runoff from a portion of Killington Road, and the replacement of the West Branch Roaring Brook and Roaring Brook culverts under Killington Road. The Proposed Action is a critical element of the Killington Forward Initiative; a comprehensive plan proposed by the Town of Killington that consists of multiple proposed infrastructure improvements and integrated components to support current and future businesses, properties, schools and workforce and community housing.

NBRC is accepting comments on this Draft EA from November 14, 2024 through the end of the day of December 15, 2024. Comments should be submitted by email to nepa@nbrc.gov.

Date of Publication: November 13, 2024

Bridgewater Area Community Center, Childcare was awarded a two-year \$200K grant

The Canaday Family Charitable Trust recently announced a two-year, \$204,950 grant to fund projects that will enhance the energy efficiency, sustainability, and resiliency of the Bridgewater Area Community Center (BACC) and Bridgewater Community Childcare (BCC).

After six years of transforming the historic Bridgewater Schoolhouse into a community center and childcare center licensed for 45 children, the Bridgewater Area Community Foundation (BACF) is now implementing the critical steps to make the entire building sustainable and resilient. The project includes adding solar energy, maximizing heat pumps, and installing two highly efficient furnaces and electric water heaters. Installing a backup generator and battery (electricity) storage capacity will help achieve resiliency and critical emergency preparedness. The sustainable upgrades to the heating, hot water, and electrical systems alone will reduce the use of fossil fuels, lower heating costs (currently \$14,000/year), reduce air pollutants children are exposed to, and cut the building's greenhouse gas emissions by some 11 tons of CO2 per year.

BACF will oversee the project, which will build upon previously completed work that made the center energy-efficient, which was spearheaded by Sustainable Woodstock and supported in 2020 by a \$77,000 grant from the Canaday Family Charitable Trust. The already completed components include the installation of air sealing and insulation

Bridgewater grant → 6



By Brigid Sullivan

Local Rotarians help eradicate polio worldwide

District Rotary Foundation Chair Diane Barclay spoke to Ludlow Rotarians about Rotary International (RI) Foundation's work to eradicate polio worldwide through vaccinations. Ludlow Rotarians hold up their annual checks to support the cause, helping RI raise \$50 million to be matched by the Bill Gates Foundation two to one. Kim Lampert, top row center, was presented with her Paul Harris Sustaining Member pin at the meeting for her support of all of RI's causes.

Nurse union plans day of action in Rutland, Nov. 14

By James Kent

A day of action is planned to support nurses at Rutland Regional Medical Center (RRMC). The Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU) Local 6, which represents the nurses, has stated that it's in contract negotiations with the hospital nurses ahead of their ongoing negotiations with RRMC.

The event will be held in front of the State Fair Grounds at 175 South Main St. in Rutland on Thursday, Nov. 14 from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. Patrick Daly, the business manager for OPEIU Local 6, said the chapter was excited to draw community support and build solidarity among its members regarding its current negotiations with the hospital.

"We are still in the process of bargaining with Rutland Regional Medical Center," Daly said. "We have had nine negotiation sessions so far and will continue to meet. Our intent is to bring back the strongest possible agreement for our members. We have meetings on Nov. 20 and 21 and look to make significant progress towards reaching that agreement."

Local 6 invites the community to come and show their support on Thursday, Nov. 14.

"We are still in the process of bargaining," Daly said. "We have had nine negotiation sessions so far."



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TOWN OF KILLINGTON VERMONT DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF TITLE 24, CHAPTER 117, V.S.A. AND THE TOWN OF KILLINGTON ZONING REGULATIONS, THE KILLINGTON DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING BEGINNING AT 6:30 P.M. ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2024, AT 800 KILLINGTON ROAD IN KILLINGTON, THE PURPOSE OF WHICH WILL BE TO ALLOW INTERESTED PARTIES AN OPPORTUNITY TOO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON THE FOLLOWING:

Application 24-43 by Killington Deli and Market Place LLC for a variance to permit a sign placement at 31 feet from US-Rt.4. Applicant is asking for relief of the additional 15 feet requested from Town from VTrans right of way, which is the 31 feet from road. The site is located at 2068 US-Rt.4.

FURTHER INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT THE TOWN OFFICE BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 9:00 A.M. AND 3:00 P.M. MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY. WRITTEN STATEMENTS OR MATERIAL ARE REQUESTED TO BE SUBMITTED AT THE TOWN OFFICES AT LEAST SEVEN (7) DAYS PRIOR TO THE HEARING FOR REVIEW BY ALL PARTIES.

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD
TOWN OF KILLINGTON

Participation in the hearing by adjacent property owners is a prerequisite to the right to take subsequent appeal.



TOWN OF
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TOWN OF KILLINGTON VERMONT DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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Application 24-62 by GG Killington LP and Killington/Pico ski Resort Partners, LLC Asking to amend previously approved lot's C-I, the Killington Grand Parking Lot (collectively known as the Resort Parking Project), and stormwater management pond located to the north of the Resort Parking Project along Killington Road. These Changes are required to minimize and/or avoid wetland and buffer impacts as required by State DEC Wetlands Program due to new regulations put in place after original Town permit approval.

FURTHER INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT THE TOWN OFFICE BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 9:00 A.M. AND 3:00 P.M. MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY. WRITTEN STATEMENTS OR MATERIAL ARE REQUESTED TO BE SUBMITTED AT THE TOWN OFFICES AT LEAST SEVEN (7) DAYS PRIOR TO THE HEARING FOR REVIEW BY ALL PARTIES.

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD
TOWN OF KILLINGTON

Participation in the hearing by adjacent property owners is a prerequisite to the right to take subsequent appeal.



Courtesy of Social Tinkering

Register by Nov. 24 to take part in the annual community contest that aims to bring joy and light with creative, festive outdoor decorations through the holiday season.

Lighting up Rutland County: Contest celebrates fifth year of brightening winter nights

As the winter chill arrives, Social Tinkering, a Rutland-based nonprofit, is launching the fifth annual Light Up Rutland County, a festive community event to brighten the dark winter days. This initiative invites residents to illuminate their homes, schools, and businesses, encouraging community spirit, creativity, and connection across the region. Initially established in 2020, the event was created by Social Tinkering's founder, Jeanette Langston, as a means of lifting spirits during the pandemic, and it has grown each year with the goal of reducing social isolation in Rutland County.

"Light Up Rutland County" is more than a competition; it's an opportunity for individuals and groups to come together, showcasing creativity and enjoying the warm glow of decorations under the stars, organizers stated.

This year's Program Director, Jackie Proulx, added, "This event invites Rutland County residents to come together, be creative, and spark some joy."

Decorator registration begins on Nov. 4 and ends on Nov. 24. Households are encouraged to enter displays for categories including: Best DIY, best cozy winter glow, most whimsical, and judges' choice,

with participation fees helping to fund the event's prizes and programs.

Businesses can compete for best interactive display, most creative, and brightest.

Schools across Rutland County also join

in, decorating hallways to compete in the community's choice and judges' choice categories.

Non-public displays will be available online, where visitors can see photos and videos of the creative lighting across the county.

Prizes include experi-

ences like a class at Kaleidoscope Art Supply and a massage from Holistic Happiness.

Although the prizes add a fun incentive, Langston noted that the real reward is the sense of community and connection the event brings.

"It's amazing each year to see how people come together, creating beautiful memories and reminding each other that they're not alone," said Langston. "This event is our way to brighten each other's dark days and help us feel more connected."

Voting will open on Dec. 1 and run through Jan. 4, with winners announced in mid-January.

There is also an opportunity to y adding displays to the 2024 Lights Map for \$5.

For more information, visit: socialtinkering.org/lightuprutlandcounty.

Hartland residents ask town to take over road

By Curt Peterson

Several residents from Bird Hill Road in Hartland Four Corners petitioned the Select Board Monday evening to take over maintenance of their short private road accessed over a short bridge from Brownsville Road.

Deborah Davis, who lives in the first house, read a prepared presentation describing the history of homeowner maintenance over decades, including recently rebuilding the bridge, all at their own expense.

Bird Hill resident Peter Kaufman told the Mountain Times the homeowners have applied hardpack once a year, have funded bridge maintenance, and engage Lull's Brook Landscaping to plow in winter, all at their own expense.

"We rebuilt the bridge eight years ago," Kaufman said, "and each homeowner contributed \$2,000 or \$3,000 for the project."

Now allegedly capable of carrying vehicles weighing up to 40,000 the number of steel I-beams supporting the span was doubled from 2 to 4, and the deck is made of heavy boards laminated on edge.

Kaufman lives in a cabin built in the '60s

or early '70s, he said, and his was the first residence on the road at that time.

The Select Board reiterated the legal process involved when a town assumes responsibility for a previously private road. A site visit is scheduled for the afternoon prior to the next Select Board meeting, Nov. 18, followed by a public hearing and discussion

"We pay the same taxes as everyone else in town, so we feel we should get the same services for our road," Davis said.

at the meeting.

B. J. Mattson, Hartland's newly-promoted highway department supervisor, said statutes require roads to be in certain condition before taxpayers assume future maintenance.

"Before Bird Hill Road can become a public byway," Mattson said, "the homeowners have to lay on 3- to 4-inch (8 to 10 truckloads) of new hardpack. There is a culvert that may have to be enlarged to meet state requirements, too. And all this is on the residents' dime, not the taxpayers."

Bird Hill Road → 10

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← Bridgewater grant: from page 4

in the walls and ceilings throughout the building, meticulous restoration and energy-efficient upgrades to historic schoolhouse windows, installation of energy recovery ventilation (ERV) with heating, ventilation & air conditioning (HVAC) and individual heat pumps with related controls to regulate the climate in each childcare classroom.

The new 2024-2025 Canaday-funded projects will further reduce fossil fuel use, decrease demand for energy consumption, generate renewable solar energy, and transform the center into Bridgewater's emergency shelter. The project will also cut early child exposure to air pollution, fight climate change, and moderate the operating budget of childcare.

Michael Caduto, who represents Sustainable Woodstock on the BACF board of directors, will serve as project co-director for the energy projects with President Brian Bontrager and Vice President Charlie Shackleton.

In August/Sept. 2023, the Bridgewater Community Childcare extended into three classrooms. It will expand again later this year with a fourth classroom and space for afterschool programming, in addition to the construction of several community program-based rooms and rental spaces. With these expansions, annual electricity usage will increase proportionately.

Solar generation will offset most of the center's electricity consumption (19,778 kWh in 2003), saving more than \$6,000/year.

The addition of solar electricity generation, combined with energy-efficiency enhancements, will decrease the center's greenhouse gas emissions by some 57 tons/year, significantly lowering the building's carbon footprint. This footprint is equivalent to the carbon emissions produced by driving an average automobile six times around the Equator (150,000 miles). The building's Earth-friendly systems will also present a role model and on-site teaching tool for the childcare and program educators.

The Bridgewater Area Community Center and Bridgewater Community Childcare will have independent electrical power sources and backup systems to create a resilient emergency shelter that will meet peak power demand during extended power outages. When completed, the emergency shelter will provide heat, shelter, water, food for community members during future floods, power failures, and other emergencies, and a stable environment for children attending childcare. The existing kitchen will also be revitalized for the emergency shelter and center programming.

Project details, 2024

- Replace the oil-fired hot water heater with two electrical water heaters that will run on solar power.
- Make existing heat pumps the primary source of heating and cooling and replace the center's oil-fired boiler with two 98%-efficient propane furnaces to serve as backup to the heat pumps when ambient temperature drops below 20°F.
- Install system controls to prioritize using energy-efficient heat pumps for cooling and heating in ambient temperatures down to 20°F.
- Install a robust 55.5kWh battery backup electrical storage system to augment electrical power and serve as an electricity reserve during short-term power outages.
- Install an 80kW generator to power the entire center and emergency shelter during long-term power outages.

Project details, 2025

- Install a 21.34 kW ground-mounted solar array that will produce renewable electricity to service the center.

VTrans announces new plow names and winner of long-wing contest

The Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT) received 118 new names for its big orange plow trucks through this year's Name a Plow program for Vermont schools.

The agency also received 77 entries in the contest for schools to name the new plow truck that has a second plow spanning 21 feet and will be used to clear Interstate 89. That truck is now named "The Vermonster" thanks to the winning entry from Townshend Elementary School. Employees in AOT's nine maintenance districts were invited to vote, and The Vermonster was the clear winner with 83 votes received out of a total of 281 votes cast

throughout the state.

"Vermont students have had a lot of fun naming our plow trucks, and we love seeing what they come up with," said Transportation Secretary Joe Flynn. "The names create a connection between the communities and our hard-working plow operators, and the program is also a great way for us to talk with young Vermonters about the importance of winter highway safety and the work our teams do to keep the roads well maintained and safe."

AOT's Name a Plow program began in 2021, when Vermont schools named 163 of the state's 250 full-sized plow trucks. In 2022, AOT offered the

chance for schools that had not yet participated to submit a name, and 73 additional trucks were named. The new 2024 plow names will replace the old names for all schools that participated in the past and again this year. Plow trucks that were named previously by schools that did not send a new name this year will keep their current names.

Some AOT maintenance district plow operators visited the schools that named a truck on Thursday, Nov. 7, to celebrate the third Vermont Plow Day. Schools are invited to take photos of their students and staff with the plow truck and name sign.

Local 2024 plow names

Barstow Memorial School: No More Mr. Ice Guy
 Castleton Elementary School: Big Grimace
 Lothrop Elementary School: Edward
 Poultney Elementary School: Frost Dragon
 Proctor Elementary School: Frostbit
 Rutland Intermediate School: The UnBEElievable Snow Plow
 Thetford Elementary School: Snoah Gahan
 Vermont Virtual Learning Cooperative: Sir Plowsalot
 White River Elementary - Bethel: The Snow Day Eliminator
 Woodstock Elementary School: Snow Lemur

For the complete list of plow names visit: vtrans.vermont.gov/name-a-plow.



Courtesy VTrans

Elementary schools around the state name their own plows.



Photos by James Kent



Base Camp at Bear breaks ground

On Monday, Nov. 11, key stakeholders met at Bear Mountain to officially break ground on the ski-on ski-off duplex development. Top, left pictured (l-r): Mike Solimano, Carol Malone, Steve Malone, Richard Saunders, Paul Bieber, Kaitlyn Hummel, Jennifer Price, Adam Price, and Kyle Cornell. Right: Killington Resort President and CEO Mike Solimano smiles with Steve Malone, VP of development.

← Downtown Rutland: from page 1

chance to develop their next Plan B.

“Rutland is a city that is built for 30,000 people and it’s currently being sustained by about 15,000,” Mayor Mike Doenges said in an interview. “I have a growth mindset right now, so when we hear Walmart say, ‘We’re going to move out,’ although it may put us on our heels, I think we have a real opportunity. My inclination is to lean forward and say, ‘OK, what do we need to do next?’”

‘Rutland hasn’t been cutesified’

When Vermont Life magazine profiled Rutland in 1988, it began by opining, “Although it has many historically important buildings and has always figured prominently in Vermont’s colorful past, Rutland is not a quaint and comely town with a picturesque center.”

“Rutland hasn’t been cutesified,” the late Herald reporter and longtime resident Yvonne Daley wrote in the piece. “Rather, it’s a working-class community with a strong and diversified ethnic heritage.”

Shut off from interstate highways and seemingly forever in the shadow of Vermont’s largest city of Burlington, Rutland nonetheless can boast a history as the state’s capital from 1784 to 1804 and, rising as a rail crossroads after the Civil War, its most populous municipality for one brief shining moment in 1880.

Rutland returned to second place on the state census by 1890 and remained there for a century. The city was about to dip to third place (it’s currently fifth after Burlington, Essex, South Burlington and Colchester, but still the biggest community outside of Chittenden County) when Walmart opened in 1997.

That year, Oprah Winfrey named the Rutland-inspired novel “Songs in Ordinary Time” — penned by Mary McGarry Morris, a 1960 graduate of the city’s Mount St. Joseph Academy — as her latest Book Club selection. Soon, the television host’s nearly 20 million viewers were reading a gritty drama set in 1960 that painted a less-than-flattering picture of a hardscrabble community past its prime.

Local leaders, wincing at that depiction, hoped a revitalized downtown would help people turn the page.

‘The nature of retail has shifted’

Walmart’s 1997 debut capped a decade-long effort that also ushered in a new adjacent supermarket and nine-screen cinema, the nearby Asa Bloomer state office building, and Amtrak train service to New York. It also introduced the Rutland Redevelopment Authority and Downtown Rutland Partnership management and marketing organization.

“We have to be bold enough,” then-Mayor Jeff Wennberg told Vermont Life, “to plan our future.”

But three decades later, much of that progress is now in the past.

Lyle Jepson, executive director of the recently combined Rutland Region Chamber of Commerce and Rutland Economic Development Corporation—the new entity



A sign at downtown Rutland's Depot Park directs visitors to area attractions. By Kevin O'Connor/VT Digger

is called the Chamber & Economic Development of the Rutland Region—is based in The Hub CoWorks building, which once housed stores.

“The nature of retail has shifted,” Jepson said in an interview. “What we expect has changed.”

People who once shopped downtown now can find greater selection online, he noted, leading to not only the closure of smaller businesses but also Walmart’s desire to relocate from its current 76,000-square-foot space to a coming 170,995-square-foot one.

“For Walmart to be successful,” Jepson said, “they need to offer a complete experience, including a grocery store and pharmacy.”

Hal Issente, executive director of the Downtown Rutland Partnership, spoke to local business upon business upon the announcement of Walmart’s coming move. None have felt threatened by the big-box store, he said, as they specialize in merchandise — men’s suits at the three-generation family-owned McNeil and Reedy, for example, or classic and current literature at the local independent Phoenix Books — not sold by the discounter.

Instead, several expressed worry about the loss of what they consider to be downtown’s largest customer magnet.

“There are mixed feelings,” Issente said. “Businesses do see people go to Walmart and then come to them to shop.”

‘Everybody has their ideas’

Some locals want to replace the downtown Walmart with a chain, such as Target. “Everybody has their ideas,” Doenges said. “I’ve heard everything from ‘Make it an Amazon distribution center’ to ‘Move the library there.’”

That’s why the mayor is forming a task force of residents and government representatives to collect and consider suggestions.

“We want to be thoughtful about what comes next,” Doenges said of the larger picture. “What’s the next 30 years look like, and what do we want to try that can sustain the city?”

Two multi-million dollar developments

At the same time, developers are working on several other projects on nearby Center Street, which Rutland is aiming to redesign into a pedestrian-friendly counterpart to Burlington’s Church Street Marketplace.

The largest proposal is a \$35 million, seven-story hotel building on the corner of Center and Wales streets, site of the Berwick Hotel from 1868 until a 1973 fire leveled it into a current parking lot known as “The Pit.”

Developer upon developer over the past half-century has proposed new construction there, only to be stymied by the prospect of brownfield clean-up estimated at \$500,000 a decade ago and \$5 million today, according to city figures.

This time, the local Belden Company has received a \$700,000 state Community Recovery and Revitalization Program award for the 99-room hotel, which also would include 26 “market-rate” apartments.

Although Belden has just applied for a building permit for what the mayor will only say is a “major brand” hospitality chain (an artist concept includes a sign for Cambria), it’s aiming to open the property by 2027.

“If things continue the way they’re going,” Doenges said, “we’ll see a hotel within the next few years.”

Aerial lift extends over a parking lot with cars. Brick buildings and an American flag are visible in the background.

Across the street, the Paramount Theatre is undergoing a \$6 million renovation and expansion to a playhouse that opened in

1914, moved to “talking pictures” in 1931, and returned after a 25-year closure and floor-to-ceiling restoration in 2000.

The 838-seat facility now offers more than 150 performances and programs annually. Its 60,000 yearly patrons, in turn, generate between \$2.5 million and \$3 million in economic impact, its management reported as part of the most recent Americans for the Arts’ national Arts & Economic Prosperity study.

With crews now adding more lobby, restroom, and conference space, “the numbers will only grow,” Eric Mallette, the Paramount’s executive director, said of a project set for completion by the end of 2026.

‘Headed in a growth direction’

To make all the proposals more attainable, Rutland City is applying for state approval to form a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district so it can improve public infrastructure to draw private development that, in turn, would boost the municipal tax base and pay off the work.

Under the plan, for example, the city would help with the brownfield cleanup at “The Pit” parking lot that would allow construction of the hotel.

Local leaders hope to formalize the TIF district early next year and start infrastructure projects in 2026. They estimate that could spur the creation of 385 housing units and other private development totaling \$63 million in increased property value and \$3 million of additional general fund revenue over 20 years.

“But for the city putting in this effort,” advisor Stephanie Clarke told the Rutland Board of Aldermen at a recent meeting, “this development isn’t happening.”

“As much as I want to look at developing commercial entities throughout the city, without people here, it’s not going to work,” Doenges said. “We need to develop housing, too.”

In the meantime, A2Z Real Estate Inc. of Pennsylvania, owner of the Diamond Run Mall, is seeking permits for the new Walmart “supercenter.” And the Brixmor Property Group, operator of the downtown Rutland Plaza, is searching for a new anchor tenant.

“While we don’t have any new updates to share at this time, Brixmor is committed to attracting best-in-class retailers that will meet the needs of the Rutland community,” spokesperson Maria Pace said in a statement.

Walmart will continue to operate in its current location until the move.

“I look at it from an investment standpoint,” Doenges said. “You don’t want to invest in a company when it’s at its peak and maxed out. Rutland is headed in a growth direction. That’s when you want to invest because it’s less expensive now, and you get to reap the benefits for the next 15 or 20 years. My hope is that we can pitch Rutland on its potential and the opportunity that’s here.”

GUEST EDITORIAL

Change election, but will it help solve what's ailing Vermont?

By Angelo Lynn

Vermonters witnessed as much of a change election as we've seen in the past couple of decades, as Republicans gained six seats in the Senate and 18 seats in the House. The headlines blasted the story: Dems' supermajority in both chambers was busted. And in the surprise outcome of the election, newly minted Republican John Rodgers upset four-term incumbent David Zuckerman to win the lieutenant governor race.

It's not a bad outcome for Vermont.

With Gov. Scott routinely garnering 70% of the vote, and Democrats maintaining a supermajority in both chambers, neither party was willing to meet in the middle on crucial issues. Scott hasn't taken the lead on any tough issue, not even proposing a viable budget these past few years, while the Legislature made minor progress on housing issues this past session but has been slow to tackle education funding that was at the heart of huge property tax increases and prompted Republican victories.

With the parties more evenly matched — the House is 91 Democrats to 56 Republicans with three independents, while the Senate is 17 Dems and Progressives to 13

Republicans — and Gov. Scott getting support from Rodgers, the hope is both parties will finally tackle what's ailing Vermont.

It's not rocket science. Our demographics are skewed: too many old folks, too few working age

There are answers, we just have to put the state's resources behind the problem and commit to solving it.

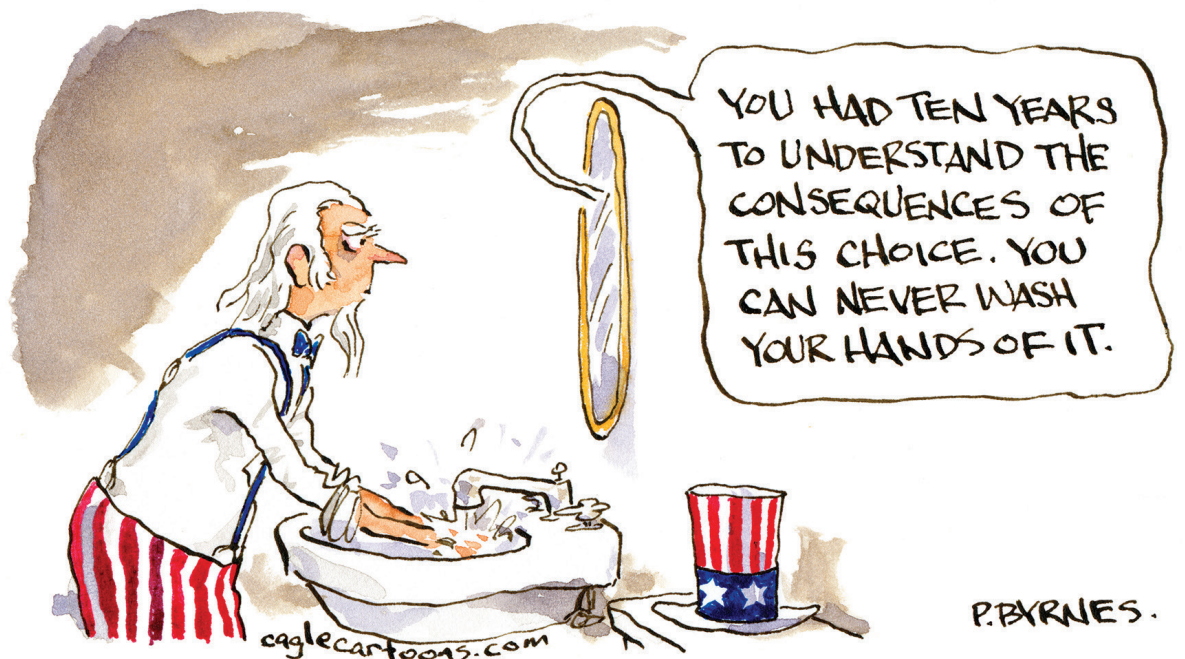
adults (25-65), and a shrinking student population... and the trend keeps making it worse. We can't solve any of the major crises without first solving our affordable housing. So, let's get to it. There are answers, we just have to put the state's resources behind the problem and commit to solving it.

As we begin to get a handle on housing, the cost of education and health care are the other crises that must be addressed. Again, the diagnosis is easy: Our expansive infrastructure and services exceed our ability to pay for it. We must reimagine how we can provide better quality service at less cost. That's going to come with sacrifices, including consolidating schools and health care services, but the time to hem-and-haw about the virtues of consolidation are past: Vermonters said in this election they can't afford another round of double-digit tax increases and almost everyone agrees.

It's tempting to suggest that Democrats simply pass the baton. They've been taking the heat for being in charge (what's the governor's role supposed to be?) for years, so give them a shot at leadership. Switch places with Gov. Scott and sit back and critique his proposals. Would he? Likely not. What was disappointing in the Republican campaigns this fall is that while they opposed higher taxes (like everyone does), they offered no solutions.

Can we expect newly elected Sen. Steve Heffernan to propose ways to lower property taxes and cut school spending? We hope so. Can we expect Gov. Scott, Rodgers and the 18 new Republican House members to create

Change → 11



This Won't Wash Off by Pat Byrnes, PoliticalCartoons

LETTERS

Trump's tariffs: the joke is on us

Dear Editor,

The first thing to understand about tariffs, that no voters were ever told on the campaign trail, is that the producers in the sending country (China, for instance) do not pay for the tariff. The U.S.-based companies that receive the goods (the U.S.) must pay the tariff. Why is this?

First, a nation has no authority to arbitrarily impose a cost on another nation. So China — or any other country — does not pay the tariff on goods it exports to the U.S.

But we do, in the form of covering the cost of the tariff that our wholesalers and retailers pay, which is then passed on in business-as-usual fashion to you and me. So, tariffs will not save our purchasing power. That is a campaign lie.

The outdated and debunked concept of tariff supposedly "protects" our industries by forcing foreign prices higher than what we would pay here at home, encouraging us to shop for lower-priced "buy American-made." However, more and more imported components are used in "American-made" products. Also, thanks to social media like Temu and TikTok (both out of China), Americans are now addicted to online ordering

Tariffs → 9

What happens to campaign signs?

Dear Editor,

We hope all campaign signs will disappear after Nov. 5. We also hope they will NOT end up in a landfill. Most, if not all, of the signs are plastic, which means they can't be recycled.

However, they can be reused or re-purposed. Think roofing or siding material, killing invasives in your garden, door or car

They can be reused or re-purposed.

mats, yard sale signs, wall decorations, placemats, insulation, waterproofing under your tent, and floor padding next to your kitchen sink... The list is endless.

The metal stands can be recycled in a scrap metal container. Please don't put them in your regular household single-stream recycling.

They might also keep your dog from digging in your garden.

Thanks for not throwing them in the trash. "When you throw something away, where is AWAY?"

The Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District

Ending the stalemate

Dear Editor,

In October, I announced my campaign to be Vermont's next Speaker of the House. Today, after an election that eliminated the House supermajority, I want to acknowledge the challenges we face, share why I'm stepping forward and outline my vision for how the Legislature can shift priorities and address Vermonters' most urgent needs.

Affordability is a big worry for most Vermonters right now. Inflation, housing costs, rising insurance premiums, and property taxes have become unsustainable. Our education and health-care systems are severely strained and need both stabilization and reform. These challenges are compounded by climate adaptation, emerging from Covid-19, shifting demographics, and an increasingly globalized economy. Vermonters deserve responsive leadership. With voters clearly demanding meaningful progress, I'm running for Speaker to break the current gridlock and set an agenda that delivers on Vermonters' needs.

Growing up as the eldest of 12 children in rural poverty, I'm hardwired to solve problems. I took on responsibilities early—supporting my

Stalemate → 10

Thank you, Windsor District

Dear Editor,

Thank you to the Windsor District voters for electing us to represent you in the Vermont State Senate. We are honored to serve and appreciate your vote of confidence.

We are grateful to our many volunteers who helped make this victory possible. Thank you for hosting our lawn signs, writing letters to the editor, canvass-

We have heard the voters loud and clear.

ing with us, and standing with our signs at the polls.

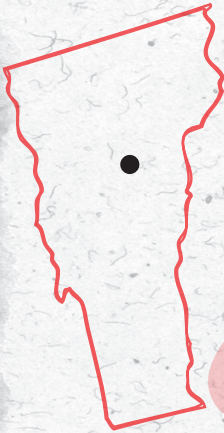
Special thanks also to our forbearing spouses who supported us so fully.

We have heard the voters loud and clear, and we look forward to continuing to work across the aisle to address the challenges Vermonters face today: reducing property taxes, enabling more housing, building Vermont's resiliency, and reducing climate change.

This election is just the beginning. We invite you to be in touch as we prepare for this 2025-26 Biennium.

With deep gratitude,
Alison Clarkson, Joe Major and Becca White

CAPITOL QUOTES



The results of the U.S. election held on Nov. 5 generated much discussion, elation, fear, concern, and questions about the country's future. One thing is sure: Americans voted for a change in the nation's direction...

"In this democracy the majority has spoken, and they said they don't care that much about democracy... In exit polls voters said were looking for the candidate that 'could bring needed change.' Ok, but change, that's kind of a vague word, it includes a lot of possible outcomes. For instance, you could remodel your kitchen or you could burn your house down."
said Stephen Colbert on "The Late Show" Nov. 7.

"Democrats must learn from this moment. Yesterday, working-class people sent a powerful message about their concerns, and we should heed their warnings: They want leaders who will tackle the affordability crisis and acknowledge that crisis. They want leaders who will provide opportunities in every zip code, rural and urban,"
said U.S. Sen. Peter Welch in a statement released on Nov. 6.

"Deporting millions of illegal aliens out of this country, securing the border, banning DEI... getting boys out of girls sports, those are all the things the Department of Justice is going to work on and those are the things that the Department of Justice employees, current employees, are going to support. And if they don't want to support it, they should leave,"
said Mark Paoletta, a conservative lawyer and potential nominee for attorney general, on "Fox and Friends."

"The national election results are very alarming. I know we are all very anxious about the next four years. More than ever, Vermont needs to be an oasis and a model for the country. We must work to resolve our differences, with a 'town meeting' mentality where we may not agree but we respect each other and assume we are all trying to improve things for all of us,"
said Vermont Lt. Governor David Zuckerman, who lost his re-election bid to former Democrat turned Republican John Rodgers, in his concession message to his constituents.

Change is in the air...

Like the temperature changes outside that will soon bring us winter, Election Day results will bring a different dynamic to the State House in January.



By Rep. Jim Harrison

The current supermajority in the Vermont Legislature has been dissolved. The Democrats will maintain majorities in the House and Senate but will no longer be able to override vetoes by the governor without Republican help. Republicans picked up 18 or 19 seats in the House (depending on how you classify a former Republican member who became a Libertarian) and six in the Senate. Additionally, it is likely there will be a recount in the Springfield House district and a possible revote in a Bennington County district that apparently sent about 40 residents in Pownal the wrong ballot.

The change in makeup will mean that compromise will be necessary for any major legislation to pass. The Democratic majority will continue to drive the legislative agenda but will need to find common ground with Republicans and Gov. Scott to enact new bills. Former Democratic legislator and now Republican, John Rodgers, defeated the incumbent Lt Governor David Zuckerman, a Progressive/Democrat from Chittenden County. While this race will ultimately be decided by the Legislature as neither candidate received 50% of the vote, it's unlikely the Legislature will vote to change the outcome. Controversial measures, such as the Clean Heat initiative, face an uncertain future. The law, which was enacted last year by overriding a gubernatorial veto, would have increased the cost of heating fuels to fund other energy measures. It is slated to return

to the Legislature in January for another approval, which is now less likely. The original sponsor of the measure, Senator Chris Bray, D-Addison, was one of the lawmakers to lose re-election last week. Education finance changes are also on the table, given the pushback from voters on increased property taxes. The legislation, which passed last session via a veto override, set up a two-year commission to come back and recommend changes. Many lawmakers do not believe we can wait two years, and that action needs to be taken sooner rather than later.

Other laws enacted over vetoes could be revisited, but that would take the legislative majority to reconsider their past votes and might be too high a hurdle. While Governor Scott successfully campaigned hard for candidates to achieve more balance at the State House, he urged newly elected and re-elected lawmakers to put aside the "D" or "R" after your name and work for your communities, not your party. He further said, "...at the end of the day, we're all on Team Vermont."

On the eve of Election Day, I met up with a member of Governor Scott's team and he jokingly said to me that it would be embarrassing to lose my re-election bid to "blank" on the ballot (I was unopposed). I am pleased to report, that thanks to the voters of Chittenden, Killington, Mendon and Pittsfield last Tuesday, I received more votes than "blank" and was re-elected to another term. However, it is interesting and perhaps telling, that there were more votes for "blank" than for the current House Speaker and Senate leader on the respective ballots in Burlington. Thank you all for your continued support! *Jim Harrison is the state representative for Chittenden, Killington, Mendon, and Pittsfield. He can be reached at JHarrison@leg.state.vt.us.*

← **Tariffs:**
from page 8

from foreign markets.

Two can play that game. China can and will retaliate in kind. It is called a trade war.

Tariffs have been proven to do more harm than good. Here are just a few of the mainstream online headlines warning about the sticker shock we are about to experience when Trump implements his tariffs..

Sourcingjournal.com: 'This New Sheriff Loves Tariffs': Industry Groups on the Problems and Potential That Come With Second Trump Presidency

Yahoo Finance: Trump's tariff promises have im-

port-heavy retailers facing 'new reality'

Business Insider: What Trump's win means for retail giants like Walmart, Target, and Costco

Barron's Online: Trump Tariffs Are Coming. Who Gets Hurt.

Fortune.com: Everything we know about Trump's policies on tariffs, trade, taxes

Cnn.com Politics: 3 charts that explain how Trump's tariffs would work ["Trump doesn't talk about the negative effect tariffs could have on U.S. businesses and consumers. ... Study after study... has found that Americans have borne almost the

entire cost of Trump's tariffs on Chinese products."]

So how will we consumers offset the sweeping price increases caused by tariffs?

Trump is promising to abolish the FICA payroll tax. That should put money in our pockets, right? But guess what? FICA helps pay for Social Security and Medicare. A major loss of that tax revenue will force cuts in those benefits in just a few years, which you, I, and our loved ones will depend on.

The joke is on all of us in the 80% of wage earners.

Julia Purdy, Rutland



Join Our Resort Team

Full Time, Part Time, & Seasonal Opportunities

The Spa

- Spa Front Desk
- Spa Attendant



Food & Beverage

- Host/Hostess
- Kitchen Steward
- Lead Food Runner



The Inn

- Bell Person
- Night Audit
- Front Desk Supervisor



Recreation

- Snow Sports School Instructors
Nordic & Alpine
- Nordic Groomer
- Athletic Club Personal Trainer



Full time positions are eligible after an initial waiting period for a competitive benefits package that includes Medical, Dental, and Vision Coverage, Employer Paid: Life Insurance, Short-Term Disability and Long-Term Disability, Paid Time Off, 401k Retirement Plan with Employer match, and great recreation privileges that are also offered to our part time and seasonal employees.

Our success is the direct result of dynamic, dedicated people with a passion for hospitality who enjoy being part of a devoted, hard-working team. View all benefits and privileges and apply today at woodstockinn.com/careers!

woodstockinn.com | Woodstock, Vermont



Stalemate:

from page 8

younger siblings, standing by my brothers through their military service, and helping my mother keep our family on track. I raised my own daughters while balancing multiple jobs, later meeting my husband and growing our family. Stepping into an executive role at the Chamber of Commerce, I led a revitalization effort that increased revenue, membership, and staff. These experiences challenged me to the core, pushing me to seek support when needed, persevere, and work hard alongside anyone who was committed to making things better.

My life has taught me that problem-solving isn't just about having the right answers; it's about having the right mindset. Progress

requires focus, discomfort, and persistence, along with creating space for others to engage and bring forward solutions. Positive change is possible through focused hard work and intentional collaboration.

Currently leadership has reached a political standstill. While the governor's focus on affordability is important, his administration's cautious approach has left some of our biggest challenges undressed.

Current House leaders, on the other hand, have been hesitant on complex issues, waiting for the political winds to change instead of working with all of the public officials Vermonters have elected to solve the problems Vermonters need solved. The Repub-

lican gains in the House that we saw on Election Day show that Vermonters are calling for leadership that prioritizes progress on our priorities over partisanship.

My goal is to break the stalemate, set a clear direction, and work with anyone and everyone who's ready to make progress bringing Vermont forward.

I'm prepared to lead the House in a new direction—collaborative, focused, and transparent—to ensure Vermont is moving toward a more affordable, sustainable, and prepared future.

Laura H. Sibilia, Dover
Vermont State Representative for Dover, Readsboro, Searsburg, Somerset, Stamford, Wardsboro, Whitingham



Trailblazer:

from page 1

community and a year-round hub for outdoor recreation that brings millions of visitors to the state.

Solimano created the innovative Beast 365 pass, which extends the traditional season ski pass to a year-round monthly subscription to all of Killington's growing four-season offerings such as the 30 miles of downhill mountain bike trails, the Adventure Center, golf course and more.

In recent years, Solimano has overseen the resort as it built the new K-1 Lodge, the largest in the East, and put in skier/rider tunnels under busy trail intersections to make the area safer.

During his tenure, Killington has become a regular host of the biggest sports events in Vermont, the Audi

FIS Ski World Cup which brings 30,000 to the area each November as well as outdoor sports events such as the Fox US Open of mountain biking, Spartan races, archery competitions and more.

Solimano has worked closely with the community to build workforce housing and provided hands-on training for students at Vermont State University's bachelor of science in resort and hospitality management. Proof of the program's effectiveness is that at least two of Killington's leadership team are graduates.

This past fall, Solimano has worked closely with Powdr, the adventure lifestyle conglomerate that bought Killington in 2007, to facilitate an amicable sale of Killington and Pico to a

group of local skiers and investors.

Solimano has been deeply invested in the greater central Vermont community, serving on the boards of the Vermont Ski Areas Association, Killington Mountain School, the Vermont Futures Project, Rutland Regional Medical Center and the Vermont Business Roundtable.

He has also been on the frontlines of creating One Killington — a partnership forged by the town, the local business community, and Killington Resort and Pico Mountain and has worked closely with Great Gulf on the planning of a new base village and creating the infrastructure needed to make that happen.



Bird Hill Road:

from page 5

According to Mattson, one issue the town has with other unpaved roads is lack of a place to turn the plow trucks around.

"This isn't a problem with Bird Hill Road," he said. "There's a good turnaround at the end. It's not a bad road."

At the Select Board meeting Mattson mentioned re-ditching with stone lining as a possible requirement where the road is steep.

Davis said there are similar roads the town maintains, that are not in as good condition or as wide as Bird Hill Road. She also

mentioned there are currently five children living on the road, "soon to be six" and she thinks statutes require school bus access if there's five or more.

"We pay the same taxes as everyone else in town, so we feel we should get the same services for our road," Davis said.

Kaufman said their neighborhood isn't one of the wealthier areas in Hartland, but he is sure they can and will meet whatever requirements there are for making Bird Hill Road a town responsibility.

WORDPLAY

GAMES&PUZZLEWORDSEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and back

A	L	T	R	J	E	X	P	E	R	A	O	Y	U	I	Z	W	P	X	H
D	O	T	G	Y	A	L	T	C	R	E	S	A	E	T	N	I	A	R	B
E	V	T	T	S	S	P	D	W	C	R	O	S	S	W	O	R	D	A	U
J	S	K	S	Y	C	Z	S	R	L	O	G	I	C	I	I	C	U	G	B
O	D	E	S	W	Z	E	U	O	O	J	M	H	D	G	R	K	X	P	S
B	H	O	M	P	O	B	M	N	T	W	S	U	Y	I	O	H	B	D	E
C	P	D	A	C	C	R	S	U	B	I	D	E	V	D	A	Y	R	U	B
V	B	M	T	W	R	Z	D	J	V	Z	V	I	U	R	Y	A	C	H	B
G	S	U	H	X	M	Y	S	S	A	B	D	S	E	X	C	U	O	H	D
D	T	Y	E	G	M	M	P	J	E	E	J	L	S	G	S	S	M	X	E
T	P	U	M	S	C	N	C	T	O	A	H	H	N	L	O	R	P	M	X
X	E	A	A	K	L	M	E	G	O	I	R	I	Z	U	T	E	U	C	T
K	L	A	T	C	Z	A	A	Z	R	G	Y	C	T	Y	D	K	T	T	E
Y	Z	M	I	D	Y	M	P	T	A	A	R	H	H	T	O	C	E	E	R
D	Z	M	C	X	E	Y	T	E	L	M	H	A	B	P	D	E	R	T	I
H	U	G	A	S	E	G	C	P	Z	O	K	R	M	O	R	H	S	R	T
A	P	W	L	E	O	N	X	X	W	A	S	G	I	J	N	C	M	I	Y
D	Y	Y	D	B	I	N	G	O	W	H	U	H	N	H	O	I	J	S	Z
S	M	A	R	G	A	N	A	N	A	B	G	E	G	P	G	G	C	W	A
I	T	C	D	D	H	I	D	D	E	N	P	I	C	T	U	R	E	V	P

- BANANAGRAMS

BINGO

BRAINTEASER

CHECKERS

CHESS

COMPUTERS
- CROSSWORD

CRYPTOGRAM

DEXTERITY

HIDDENPICTURE

JIGSAW

LOGIC
- MATHEMATICAL

MAZE

PLAYINGCARDS

PUZZLE

SUDOKU

SUMS
- TETRIS

UNO

VIDEOGAMES

WORDSEARCH

WORDLE

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Solutions →22

CLUES ACROSS

1. Schoolhouse tool

7. Martens

13. Slags

14. One who scrapes

16. Centiliter

17. White wine

19. Of I

20. Former Syracuse great Warrick

22. Relating to the ear

23. Sandwich shops

25. Victories

26. White (French)

28. Self-immolation by fire ritual

29. Genus of parrots

30. Unhappy

31. Talk incessantly

33. Type of Squad

34. Unit of perceived loudness

36. Violent seizure of property

38. Agave

40. Sound units

41. Removes from record

43. Partner to Mama

44. Mythological bird

45. Dash

47. Hair product

48. Two-year-old sheep

51. Signs a deal

53. Conifer

55. Autonomous republic in NW Russia

56. Wife of Muhammed

58. British Air Aces

59. Ears or ear-like appendages

60. Not caps

61. Deep-bodied sea dweller

64. Rural delivery

65. Feeling

67. Study of relations of organisms to one another

69. Room to argue

70. Question

CLUES DOWN

1. Cream puff

2. Road open

3. Stressed syllable

4. Thailand's former name

5. Cologne

6. Recounted

7. Garment of cloth

8. Airborne (abbr.)

9. Reproduced

10. Emits coherent radiation

11. "Westworld" actor Harris

12. Smallest interval in Western music

13. Unstressed central vowel

15. Lives in

18. When you expect to get somewhere

21. Storage bags

24. One who covers with plastic

26. Cast out

27. Automobile

30. Repaired shoe

32. Belonging to the bottom layer

35. Possesses

37. Soda

38. Programs

39. In an unexpected way

42. A bag-like structure in a plant or animal

43. For each

46. Unbelief

47. Seized or impaled

49. Arrive on the scene

50. Especially happy

52. Classic western film

54. Split pulses

55. Frida __: Painter

57. Start again

59. Employee stock ownership plan

62. Young women's association

63. Frozen water

66. "The First State"

68. Computers need one

Change: from page 8

legislation to make housing and health care more affordable? All their campaign ads, fliers and mailers promised to lower taxes and to make Vermont more affordable. Will voters hold them to their word?

But this shouldn't be about politics, but instead about solving the problems.

What we really want is to see both parties, including the governor's office, working together to create the best plans possible, and then have Gov. Scott use his political capital to get the public on board.

That leadership is going to be needed if legislators are going to risk their own skins to get behind the tough measures required.

Whether they can collaborate to that degree is what we'll find out starting in January.

KILLINGTON FOOD SHELF

We are stocked with nonperishable food, paper goods & cleaning supplies. Any person in need, please call to arrange a pickup. Donations accepted. Please call Nan Salamon, 422-9244 or Ron Willis, 422-3843.

Sherburne UCC "Little White Church," Killington, VT

GUESS WHO ?

I am a drummer for a pop punk band born in California, on November 14, 1975. I dreamed of becoming a pro surfer and skateboarder, but started playing the drums at age 4. I'm well known for my mohawk and lots of tattoos.

Answer: Travis Barker

SUDOKU

Solutions →22

7		9						8
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4				6			5	
3			8	5				9
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		6		9	2			

Level: Advanced



Loaded Turkey Rail Jam

SATURDAY 9 A.M-3:30 P.M.

WED
11/13

S.E.A.T. Exercises

9-10 a.m. (Wednesdays) Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. \$6 per individual class or \$5 per class when paying for the whole month upfront. A brand-new, chair-based full body workout led by Melissa Cox. rutlandrec.com/godnick or 802-773-1853

Killington Active Seniors Lunch

11:30 a.m. (Wednesdays) The Lookout Tavern, 2910 Killington Road, Killington. \$5 donation towards the meal, tip is covered by local donors. 908-783-1050

Gentle & Restorative Yoga

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (Wednesdays) Wise Pines, 184 Hartland Road, Woodstock. \$15 or \$30 for three classes. Yoga class for seniors. wisepines.com/events

Diabetes Support Group

1-2 p.m. (Second Wednesday of every month) RRM Diabetes & Endocrinology Center, 160 Allen St., Rutland. Free. For patients managing diabetes, to discuss challenges, ask questions, and provide support. Hosted by Community Health and Rutland Regional Medical Center's Diabetes & Endocrinology Center. Contact Michele Redmond at 802-277-5327. chcr.org/diabetes-support-group

Public Skating

2-3:30 p.m. (Wednesdays) Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. Adult \$8, Youth \$6, Seniors \$5, Child under 3 Free, Super Senior (70+) Free. Skate rentals \$7 (figure or ice hockey). unionarena.net

Bone Builders at the Chaffee

3:30-4:30 p.m. (Wednesdays) Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St., Rutland. Free. Heather Wilson leads a bone-building class focused on weight training and balance exercises to increase strength, balance, and bone density. chaffeeartcenter.org

Cribbage for Adults

3-5 p.m. (Wednesdays) Hartland Public Library, 135 Route 5, Hartland. Free. hartlandlibraryvt.org/calendar or 802-436-2473

Learn to Skate

4:20-5:20 p.m. (Wednesdays through Dec. 19) Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. \$140. Join Union Arena Skating Club for learn to skate lessons. Levels include Snowplow Sam (ages 3-5), Basic Skills (ages 6+), and Pre-Free to Free Skate levels. Helmets required. Register at uaskateclub.com

Diabetes Support Group

5-6 p.m. (2nd Wednesday of every month) Community Health Castleton, 261 Route 30, Castleton. Free. For patients managing diabetes, to discuss challenges, ask questions, and provide support. Contact Michele Redmond at 802-277-5327. chcr.org/diabetes-support-group

Poultney Energy Fair

5-7 p.m. Young at Heart Senior Center, 206 Furnace St., Poultney. Free entry. Experience fossil-fuel-free dining with food trucks powered by SolarFest's solar trailer, providing 40-kWh of silent, renewable electricity. solarfest.org

Shoulder Opening Stretch Class - Five-Week Course

6-7 p.m. Artistree Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Road, Pomfret. Refer to website for details. This class, led by certified stretch coach Rob Lamprey, focuses on improving shoulder and neck health through targeted stretches and mobility exercises. hisawyer.com/artistree/schedules/activity-set/848288

Energy Transition Discussion

6-7:45 p.m. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Join 350 VT for "Don't Burn Our Future," a conversation focused on creating a just and safe energy future. rutlandfree.org

Ina Anderson Poetry Reading at Seven Stars Arts Center

7 p.m. Seven Stars Arts Center, 5126 VT Route. 14, Sharon. Free. Join poet Ina Anderson for a reading from her new collection Sky Furniture, with musical accompaniment by guitarist Peter Neri. Reception and book signing to follow. Books available for purchase. sevenstarsarts.org

Green Mountain Fly Tyers Meeting

7:30 p.m. Godnick Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. Free. Join the Green Mountain Fly Tyers for a demonstration by Mike Rochelle on two fly patterns: the Isonychia Soft Hackle and the Pheasant Tail Flashback Nymph. rutlandrec.com/godnick

THURS
11/14

Essentrics Stretch and Strengthen

9-10 a.m. (Thursdays) Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St., Poultney. \$10. No-weights, low impact workout combines principles from ballet, tai chi, and physiotherapy to restore flexibility and balance. Bring a mat and water. stonevalleyarts.org

Intermediate Line Dance

9:30-10:30 a.m. (Thursdays) Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. rutlandrec.com/godnick or 802-773-1853

Bone Builders

10 a.m. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. Weights are provided. sherburnelibrary.org or 802-422-4323

Survivors Support Group

10 a.m.-noon. (Thursdays) Godnick Adult Center, 1 Deer St., Rutland. Free. Fliers available at the Godnick Center or call 802-775-3232. rutlandrec.com/godnick

Chaffee: Artery

Noon. (Thursdays) Adults. Connect and create with others. \$10-\$20. Painting in all mediums welcome. No set topic or instructor, attendees will work on their individual artwork. Must pre-register. chaffeeartcenter.square.site

Ukelele Group

Noon-1 p.m. (Thursdays) Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St., Rutland. Free. Attendees will play a collection of sheet music. All levels welcome, ages 12+. Must pre-register by Wednesday at noon. chaffeeartcenter.square.site

Working Woodlands Workshop: Horse Logging Demonstration

12:30-2:30 p.m. Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, Forest Center, Woodstock. Free. Discover the sustainable forestry technique of horse logging with a live demonstration led by Bass Brook Farm and Forest. Registration required. nps.gov/mabi

Play Bridge!

2-4 p.m. (Thursdays) Norman Williams Public Library, 10 The Green, Woodstock. Free. Beginners are welcome to observe. normanwilliams.org or 802-457-2295

Stick & Puck

3-4:10 p.m. (High School Level) Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. \$10 per session. Helmet required; other gear strongly recommended. unionarena.net

Farmers' Market (Fair Haven)

3-6 p.m. (Thursdays) Village Green, Fair Haven. vtfarmersmarket.org

Community Literacy Night with Kenneth Cadow

5:30-7 p.m. The Sharon Academy Middle School, 79 VT-132, Sharon. Free. Join The Sharon Academy and National Book Award-nominated author Kenneth Cadow for an evening centered on his novel, "Gather," about a Vermont teen overcoming family challenges. Food from Cockadoodle Pizza at 5:30 p.m., followed by a reading from Cadow at 6 p.m. and a student-led Q&A session. sharonacademy.org

Actor-in-Residence Workshop: Auditioning for Community Theatre

6:30-8:30 p.m. Artistree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Road, South Pomfret. \$15. A workshop for aspiring actors to improve audition skills. hisawyer.com/artistree/schedules/activity-set/1074289?source=semester

Jukebox: 'With A Little Help from Our Friends'

7-8 p.m. The Hayloft at Artistree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Road., South Pomfret. \$40. Join VSO musicians, with both musicians and audience onstage, in a special Jukebox show curated by audience favorites. Enjoy works by Elena Kats Chernin, Rhiannon Giddens, Bryce Dessner, Stevie Wonder, and more. artistreevt.org

Movie - 'Jumanji' (PG-13)

7:30-9:30 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Green #2, Woodstock. \$8-\$10. Original 1995 classic starring Robin Williams and Kirsten Dunst. pentangle-arts.square.site/movie-tickets

FRI
11/15

Bone Builders

11 a.m.-noon. (Fridays) Chaffee Art Center, 16 S. Main St., Rutland. Free. Heather Wilson leads a bone-building class that focuses on weight training and balance exercises to improve strength, balance, and bone density. chaffeeartcenter.org

Connections & Interconnections of Life Weekly Group

Noon-1 p.m. (Fridays) Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. Free. A place to share thoughts, philosophies, spirituality, cultures, and more in a respectful way. All are welcome. Must RSVP: chaffeeartcenter.square.site

Stick & Puck

3-4:10 p.m. (All Ages) Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. \$10 per session. Helmet required; other gear strongly recommended. unionarena.net

Teen Zine Night

5-7 p.m. JAM, 5 S. Main St., 1st Floor, White River Junction. Free. Drop in for a creative zine-making night, open to ages 13-20. Learn how to create a multi-page booklet to express your passions. Supplies provided; bring your ideas and favorite pen. RSVP encouraged for supply preparation. uvjam.org

West Coast Swing Dance Classes


5:30-6:30 p.m. Gymnasium, 11 Cottage St., Rutland. \$15 per class. Learn West Coast Swing with flexible registration options for individual nights or the full series. Pre-registration required. vtwestiebest@gmail.com

Theater in the Woods 10-Minute Plays Fundraiser

5:30-9 p.m. Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St., Poultney. \$25 or \$40 for Friday & Saturday. Enjoy a fall dinner followed by four 10-minute plays by local and visiting writers. Dinner served 5:30-6:45 p.m., performances begin at 7 p.m. Reservations at theaterinthewoodsvt.org/ ten-minute-plays

Docudrama: 'Ten November'

7 p.m. Artistree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Rd., South Pomfret. \$25. A docudrama inspired by Gordon Lightfoot's song about the 1975 sinking of the S.S. Edmund Fitzgerald on Lake Superior. This play mixes music, historical research, and personal reflection. artistreevt.org

 **Calendar:** Email events@mountaintimes.info.....
from page 12

‘Truman and Nancy’: A One-Act Opera
7:30 p.m. Barn Opera House, 1386 Pearl St., Brandon. \$25. The world premiere of “Truman and Nancy,” a one-act opera by composer William Zeffiro, portraying the haunting journey of Truman Capote as he confronts the legacy of his work “In Cold Blood.” The evening includes conversations with actress Brenda Currin and graphic artist Ande Parks. operavermont.com/trumanandnancy

SAT
11/16

5K Fun Run
9 a.m. Pittsford Village Farm, 45 Elm St., Pittsford. \$20. Turkey Trot fun run to benefit Pittsford Christmas for Kids. Prizes for top three finishers. pittsfordvillagefarm.org

St. Anthony’s Christmas Bazaar
9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. St. Anthony’s Church, 15 Church St., White River Junction. Free. Handmade crafts, baked goods, preserves, a vintage shop, and themed baskets. Find dog and cat treats, cutting boards, and a special table where children can shop for free. Enjoy breakfast sandwiches, soups, and sandwiches prepared by the Knights. vtgram3@gmail.com.

Craft Fair & Basket Raffle
9 a.m.-3 p.m. Castleton Elementary School, 263 Elementary School Road, Bomoseen. Free. Support Castleton Summer Adventure Camp and Castleton Recreation Center at this craft fair and basket raffle with over 25 vendors offering handmade gifts, decor, jewelry, food, and more. Basket raffle drawing begins at 1 p.m. (winners need not be present). For info, call Becky Lanfear at 802-353-6596

Craft Fair
9 a.m.-3 p.m. Reading Town Hall, 799 VT Route 106, Reading. Free. Enjoy live fiddle music by Adam Boyce while shopping unique, handcrafted goods from local vendors. Lunch available for purchase. Proceeds benefit the Reading Historical Society. facebook.com/rhs.vt

Loaded Turkey Rail Jam
9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Killington Resort, Lower Reason Park. \$25. Weather permitting. Kick off the season with Killington’s Loaded Turkey Rail Jam, where competitors vie for Thanksgiving-themed prizes. First place receives a frozen turkey, with other prizes for second and third. Competitors and spectators need a season pass or lift ticket; discounted tickets are available for competitors and parents/guardians. Day-of registration (if available) will be held 9-10 a.m. in the K-1 Lodge, credit/debit only. killington.com

Bird Feeding: A How-to Workshop
10-11 a.m. VINS Nature Center, 149 Natures Way, Quechee. Free, \$10 donation suggested. Learn how to create a bird-friendly habitat and choose the best food to attract and support local wildlife this winter. Attendees receive a 10% discount on bird-feeding items at the VINS Nature Store. info@vinsweb.org

Savory Squash Soup Workshop
10-11:30 a.m. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. \$15, \$10 for members. Join Woodstock Inn’s Executive Chef Matthew McClure for a hands-on workshop exploring the versatility of squash in soups, roasts, and pies. Includes a tasting, recipe collection, and tips for perfecting squash soup at home. billingsfarm.org/billings-backyard

Winter Farmers Market at Vermont Farmers Food Center
10 a.m.-2 p.m. Vermont Farmers Food Center, 251 West St., Rutland. Open every Saturday to May 10, 2025. Shop from over 50 local vendors offering fresh produce, baked goods, crafts, and more. 802-417-8661

Clarendon Holiday Craft Fair
10 a.m.-3 p.m. Clarendon Elementary Gymnasium, 84 Grange Hall Road, North Clarendon. Free. Start your holiday shopping early at the annual Clarendon Holiday Craft Fair, featuring a variety of local vendors. Vendors interested in participating can contact the PTO. ClarendonVTPTO@gmail.com

Poultney Cemetery Association Fall Clean Up Day
10 a.m.-3 p.m. Poultney Cemetery, 180 Beaman St. (Route 30), Poultney. Join the all-volunteer fall cleanup day to help maintain the cemetery grounds. Lot owners are encouraged to remove any decorations they wish to keep. Bring garden tools and dress for the weather. 802-779-5534 or poultneycemeteryassociation@yahoo.com

Mental Health & Recovery Workshop
10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Pawlet Public Library, School St., Pawlet. Free. Pre-registration required. Join NAMI Vermont for a community workshop on mental health and recovery, covering conditions, treatments, and resources available. namivt.org/mir

Colorful Tales: Storytelling and Drawing with Mary Crowley
10:30-11:30 a.m. Children’s Room, Rutland Free Library, 10 Court St., Rutland. Free. Join artist and children’s author Mary Crowley as she reads from her book, “I Love to Visit My Grammy,” and leads a crayon drawing session with children. rutlandfree.org

Art at the Chaffee: Drop N’ Paint
Noon-2 p.m. (Saturdays)Chaffee Art Center, 16 So. Main St., Rutland. \$25 per person, instructor help optional with a fee. All ages. Supplies and images to paint are provided. Must pre register by Friday noon at: chaffeeartcenter.org

From Darkness to Light: Remembering Our Lost Loved Ones
2 p.m. Seven Stars Arts Center, 5126 VT Route 14, Sharon. Free. Join Visiting Nurse and Hospice and Revels North for a remembrance event honoring loved ones lost in the past year. This non-denominational gathering includes readings, choral music, and a candlelight ritual. To have a loved one’s name included, email Nils Fredland at NFredland@vnhcare.org by Nov. 13 at 5 p.m. Attendees are invited to bring a small photo to include in the remembrance.

Docudrama: ‘Ten November’
3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Artistree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Road, South Pomfret. \$25. A docudrama inspired by Gordon Lightfoot’s song about the 1975 sinking of the S.S. Edmund Fitzgerald on Lake Superior. This play mixes music, historical research, and personal reflection. artistreevt.org

Harry’s Cocktail Lounge Grand Opening
4-8 p.m. Harry’s Cocktail Lounge, Quechee Gorge Village, 5573 Woodstock Ave. (Route 4), Quechee. Free. Celebrate the grand opening with cocktails featuring Vermont Spirits, food from Brownsville Butcher and Pantry, and live music by Katie Dobbins. vermontspirits.com

The Herald’s 150th Anniversary Celebration
5 p.m. Chandler Center for the Arts, 71 N. Main St., Randolph. \$15. Join the White River Valley Herald to celebrate its 150th anniversary with live music by Ali T, Bow Thayer, Krishna Guthrie, and the Randolph Singers. The event features a canapé and dessert buffet, and drinks from Fable Farm. All proceeds support The Herald’s future. tickettailor.com/events/chandlercenterforthearts/1374773?

Theater in the Woods 10-Minute Plays Fundraiser
5:30-9 p.m. Stone Valley Arts, 145 E. Main St., Poultney. \$25 or \$40 for Friday & Saturday. Enjoy a fall dinner followed by four 10-minute plays by local and visiting writers. Dinner served 5:30-6:45 p.m., performances begin at 7 p.m. Reservations at theaterinthewoodsvt.org/ten-minute-plays

Unmask the Invisible Benefit
6-10 p.m. Cornerstone Community Center, 14 Elk St., Hartford. \$60 per person. Enjoy an evening of comedy with Michael Petit, dinner and dessert, and both silent and live auctions. Proceeds support Unmask the Invisible,”aiding the brain injury community. unmasktheinvisible.org/comedy

Valley Improv at Main Street Museum
7 p.m. The Main Street Museum, 58 Bridge St., White River Junction. \$10 or best offer at the door. Join Valley Improv for an evening of spontaneous comedy and interactive entertainment in their first performance at the Main Street Museum. valleyimprov.com/#mainstreetmuseum

Jukebox: ‘With A Little Help from Our Friends’
7-8 p.m. The Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$22.50-\$44. Join VSO musicians, with both musicians and audience onstage, in a special Jukebox show curated by audience favorites. Enjoy works by Elena Kats Chernin, Rhiannon Giddens, Bryce Dessner, Stevie Wonder, and more. paramountvt.org

‘Truman and Nancy’: A One-Act Opera
7:30 p.m. BARN OPERA House, 1386 Pearl St., Brandon. \$25. The world premiere of “Truman and Nancy,” a one-act opera by composer William Zeffiro, portraying the haunting journey of Truman Capote as he confronts the legacy of his work “In Cold Blood.” The evening includes conversations with actress Brenda Currin and graphic artist Ande Parks. operavermont.com/trumanandnancy

Movie - ‘We Live in Time’ (R)
7:30-9:30 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Green #2, Woodstock. \$8-\$10. Starring Florence Pugh and Andrew Garfield pentangle-arts.square.site/movie-tickets

SUN
11/17

Poultney Cemetery Association Fall Clean Up Day
10 a.m.-3 p.m. Poultney Cemetery, 180 Beaman St. (Route 30), Poultney. Join the all-volunteer fall cleanup day to help maintain the cemetery grounds. Lot owners are encouraged to remove any decorations they wish to keep. Bring garden tools and dress for the weather. 802-779-5534 or poultneycemeteryassociation@yahoo.com

Public Skating
11 a.m.-12:10 p.m (Sundays) Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. Adult \$8, Youth \$6, Seniors \$5, Child under 3 Free, Super Senior (70+) Free. Skate rentals \$7 (figure or ice hockey). unionarena.net

Auditions for ‘Antigone’
2-5 p.m. First Universalist Church, 6211 VT-12, Barnard. BarnArts Center for the Arts seeks 8+ actors for all roles, genders, ages, and experience levels in “Antigone,” directed by Erin Bennett. The production will run Feb. 14-23 at Barnard Town Hall. barnarts.org/mainstage/antigone

Docudrama: ‘Ten November’
3 p.m. Artistree Community Arts Center, 2095 Pomfret Road., South Pomfret. \$25. A docudrama inspired by Gordon Lightfoot’s song about the 1975 sinking of the S.S. Edmund Fitzgerald on Lake Superior. This play mixes music, historical research, and personal reflection. artistreevt.org

Movie - ‘We Live in Time’ (R)
3-5 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Green #2, Woodstock. \$8-\$10. Starring Florence Pugh and Andrew Garfield pentangle-arts.square.site/movie-tickets

Purge with a Purpose
4-8 p.m. Summit Lodge, 200 Summit Road, Killington – Join the second annual Purge with a Purpose shopping event at Summit Lodge, benefiting the Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging (SVCOA). Attendees can shop while supporting essential services for Vermont’s aging population and their caregivers. m.facebook.com/events/2634070543454917/

‘Women In Song’: A Recital
4 p.m. Grace Congregational UCC, 8 Court St., Rutland. Free will offering accepted. “Women In Song,” a recital by soprano Helen Lyons and pianist Elaine Greenfield, celebrates female composers from the early 19th century to today, including works by Fanny Mendelssohn, Clara Schumann, and Florence Price, and a James Stewart composition set to a Margaret Atwood poem. graceucc@gracechurchvt.org

An Evening With the Disco Biscuits
8 p.m. The Paramount Theatre, 30 Center St., Rutland. \$43.50-\$80. “Trance-Fusion” electronic dance and jam rock band the Disco Biscuits showcase songs from their latest space opera album, “Revolution in Motion.” General admission seating is first-come, first-served; ADA seating is available by request at boxoffice@paramountvt.org. Paramountvt.org

MON
11/18

Fall Fitness Fling at Upper Valley Aquatic Center
5:00 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Upper Valley Aquatic Center, 100 Arboretum Lane, White River Jct. Free. UVAC trainers offer free 30-minute workout sessions open to members and non-members. Come prepared with a completed PAR-Q questionnaire. uvacswim.org

Bone Builders
10 a.m. Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. Weights are provided. sherburnelibrary.org or 802-422-4323

Calendar: Email events@mountaintimes.info from page 13

Monday Movie
1 p.m. (Mondays) Sherburne Memorial Library, 2998 River Road, Killington. Free. Contact the library for the title. sherburnelibrary.org/movie-monday or 802-422-9765

Stick & Puck
3-4:10 p.m. (All Ages) Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. \$10 per session. Helmet required; other gear strongly recommended. unionarena.net

Movie - 'We Live in Time' (R)
7:30-9:30 p.m. Woodstock Town Hall Theater, 31 The Green #2, Woodstock. \$8-\$10. Starring Florence Pugh and Andrew Garfield. pentangle-arts.square.site/movie-tickets

TUES
11/19

Handcraft Gathering
2-4 p.m. (Every 3rd Tuesday) Abbott Memorial Library, Library St., So. Pomfret. Bring your knitting, crocheting, embroidery, or mending projects. abbottmemoriallibrary.org

Stick & Puck
3-4:10 p.m. (High School Level) Union Arena, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. All ages. \$10 per session. Helmet required; other gear strongly recommended. unionarena.net

Alzheimer's Support Group
4-5 p.m., (Every 2nd Tuesday) Community Health, 71 Allen St., Suite 403, Rutland. Free. A monthly meeting for Alzheimer's caregivers and family members to share experiences and support one another. The group is run by participants with hands-on experience in caregiving. chcrr.org

Learn to Skate Lessons
5:30-6:30 p.m. Union Arena Community Center, 80 Amsden Way, Woodstock. \$140. Join Union Arena Skating Club for learn to skate lessons on Tuesdays, from Nov. 5 to Dec. 18, 2024. Levels include Snowplow Sam (ages 3-5), Basic Skills (ages 6+), and Pre-Free to Free Skate levels. Helmets required. Register at uaskateclub.com

Line Dance Classes
5:30-7:30 p.m. (Tuesdays) Bradford Methodist Church, 186 N Main St., Bradford. \$10. Easy line dancing at 5:30 p.m., perfect for novices, followed by a 6:30 p.m. beginner-level class. All ages welcome. Bring water and wear comfortable shoes. No need to register in advance. jeanbeanslinedancing@gmail.com

Rutland Area Toastmasters
6-7:30 p.m. (1st & 3rd Tuesdays) Courcelle Bldg, 16 N. St. Ext., Rutland. Develop public speaking, listening and leadership skills. Guests welcome. 802-775-6929. toastmasters.org

Auditions for 'Antigone'
7-9 p.m. First Universalist Church, 6211 VT-12, Barnard. BarnArts Center for the Arts seeks 8+ actors for all roles, genders, ages, and experience levels in "Antigone," directed by Erin Bennett. The production will run Feb. 14-23 at Barnard Town Hall. barnarts.org/mainstage/antigone

ONGOING

Colorful Barn Quilts Created by Math Students
Through Dec. 1. Billings Farm & Museum, 69 Old River Road, Woodstock. Exhibition of barn quilts from the 6th and 7th grade students of Piermont Village School. billingsfarm.org

Holiday Art Market
Brandon Artists Guild, 7 Center St., Brandon. Free. A festive holiday art market featuring handcrafted ornaments, pottery, stained glass, jewelry, photography, fiber art, and gifts for all ages. Open daily throughout the holiday season. brandonartistsguild.org

UPCOMING
11/20

Disney's 'Beauty and the Beast'
7:30 p.m. Northern Stage, 74 Gates St., White River Junction. \$24-\$94. Opening night performance. Directed by Carol Dunne. northernstage.org

11/28

13th Annual Killington 5k Turkey Trot
9:30 a.m. Pickle Barrel, 1741 Killington Road, Killington. \$30 before race day, \$35 on race day. The 13th edition of the Killington 5k Turkey Trot Run/Walk welcomes participants of all ages. Proceeds benefit the Pico Ski Education Foundation. Race day registration begins at 8 a.m. at the Pickle Barrel. Register now at runsignup.com/Race/VT/Killington/Killington5KTurkeyTrot

18th Annual 5K Turkey Trot for Zack's Place
10 a.m. Woodstock Elementary School, 15 South St., Woodstock. \$35. All proceeds benefit Zack's Place. Participants can race in-person or remotely. T-shirts provided to participants who pre-register by Nov. 18. Post-race festivities include food, a band, and awards. No pets allowed. Main registration takes place on Nov. 27 from 3-5 p.m. or on race day from 8-9:30 a.m. zacksplacevt.org

11/29

KMS World Cup Kick-Off Celebration
3:30-5 p.m. The Foundry at Summit Pond, 63 Summit Path, Killington. \$40 advance, \$50 at door. Celebrate Killington's World Cup weekend with an afternoon of music, drinks, and community hosted by Killington Mountain School. First 50 guests receive a limited edition KMS swag item. Proceeds support the KMS Annual Fund. Pre-purchase tickets at kms.org

11/29-12/1

The Stifel Killington Cup.
Celebrate the history and passion for Alpine ski racing and cheer on Mikaela Shiffrin, who is on track for her historic 100th win. Tickets on sale now. Killington.com

5K Fun Run
SATURDAY 9 A.M



By James Kent

The Rutland winter farmers' market returns to Farmers Hall.



By Pat Wise

VFFC reopens renovated Farmers Hall, welcoming community and Winter Farmers Market back to Rutland.

VFFC reopens Farmers Hall and welcomes the return of the winter farmers' market

RUTLAND — The Vermont Farmers Food Center (VFFC) welcomed the community back into Farmers Hall on Nov. 2. "We are incredibly happy to host the Winter Farmers Market again in Farmers Hall," said an enthusiastic Heidi Lynch, the VFFC's executive director.

During the renovation of the VFFC buildings at the former industrial site at 251 West Street in Rutland, an environmental assessment discovered an air quality issue in Farmers Hall, a remnant of the historic building's past use. The discovery initiated a three-year environmental remediation process for the project, which allowed VFFC to clean up the former industrial site for the community.

The Vermont Department of Economic Development's Brownfield Revitalization Fund, the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, and the Rutland Regional Planning Commission provided over \$800,000 in funding for the remediation work.

Lynch stated, "We couldn't have completed this remediation process without our partners. This is a milestone that allows us to move forward with next steps in our site

[MUSIC Scene]

By DJ Dave Hoffenberg
Have a music scene coming up? Email djdavehoff@gmail.com

WED
11/13

LUDLOW

6 p.m. Off the Rails – Learn to Line Dance

POULTNEY

7 p.m. Poultney Pub - Open Mic with Danny Lang

QUEECHIE

6 p.m. Public House Pub – Kim Wilcox

RUTLAND

5 p.m. Moose Lodge – Liz Reedy and Nick Bredice

8 p.m. Center Street Alley – Full PA/Backline Open Mic hosted by Josh LaFave

THUR
11/14

BRANDON

5:30 p.m. Red Clover Ale Company – Open Mic hosted by Emily Nelson

BRIDGEWATER

CORNERS

5 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Nick Bredice

KILLINGTON

6 p.m. Liquid Art – Open Mic hosted by Grateful Gary

6 p.m. The Foundry – Liz Reedy

LONDONDERRY

7 p.m. New American Grill – Open Mic Night hosted by DJ Jazzy Joel & Catnip John

LUDLOW

6:30 p.m. The Killarney – Irish Sessions with Gypsy Reel

POULTNEY

6 p.m. Poultney Pub – Vinyl Night with Ken

QUEECHIE

6:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Trivia with Questionable Company

RUTLAND

8 p.m. Angler Pub – A Sound Space Open Mic

8 p.m. Center Street Alley

– Karaoke 101 hosted by Tenacious T

SOUTH POMFRET

7 p.m. Artistree – VSO Jukebox: With A Little Help from Our Friends

FRI
11/15

BOMOSEEN

6 p.m. Bomoseen Lodge and Taproom – Ryan Fuller

KILLINGTON

6 p.m. The Foundry – Marc Edwards

6:30 p.m. Still on the Mountain – James Joel

7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub – Tom O'Carroll

8 p.m. Jax Food and Games – Carl Anton

POULTNEY

6 p.m. Poultney Pub – George Nostrand

QUEECHIE

5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Bobby Sheehan

RANDOLPH

7:30 p.m. Underground Listening Room - Dead Street Dreamers w/ Mr. Doubtfire, Vallory Falls and Mystery Girl

RUTLAND

6 p.m. Stonehedge Indoor Golf – Duane Carleton

9 p.m. Center Street Alley – DJ EG

SAT
11/16

BRANDON

7 p.m. Town Hall – Silent Movie: Barbed Wire (1927)

BRIDGEWATER

8 p.m. Woolen Mill Comedy Club – Comedy Night with Nick Tellei

KILLINGTON

6 p.m. The Foundry – Nancy & Barry

6:30 p.m. Still on the Mountain – Sammy B

7:30 p.m. McGrath's Irish Pub – Tom O'Carroll

8 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Aaron Audet

8 p.m. Pickle Barrel – Jake Kulak and the Modern Vandals

PITTSFORD

8 p.m. Hilltop Tavern – Ladies Night with DJ Brian

QUEECHIE

5:30 p.m. Public House Pub – Jennings and McComber

STOCKBRIDGE

7:30 p.m. Wild Fern – Rick Redington & Tuff Luv

SUN
11/17

BRIDGEWATER

CORNERS

3 p.m. Long Trail Brewery – Evan Foisy

KILLINGTON

6 p.m. Liquid Art - 6 p.m. Liquid Art – Tboneicus Jones

6 p.m. The Foundry – Jazz Night with the Summit Pond Quartet

8 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Jenny Porter

STOCKBRIDGE

7:30 p.m. Wild Fern – Rick Redington's Looping Mayhem

MON
11/18

LUDLOW

5 p.m. Little Mexico – Sammy B

8:30 p.m. The Killarney – Open Mic Night with King Arthur Junior

RUTLAND

7 p.m. Angler's Pub – Trivia hosted by Sunset Entertainment

TUES
11/19

KILLINGTON

7:30 p.m. Jax Food & Games – Taco Tuesday with Rick Webb

LONDONDERRY

6:30 p.m. New American Grill – Trivia hosted by Zach Yakaitis

LUDLOW

6 p.m. The Killarney – Trivia with Rick Davis

PITTSFIELD

7 p.m. Town Hall – Acoustic Jam

POULTNEY

7 p.m. Poultney Pub – Bluegrass Jam

QUEECHIE

5 p.m. The Public House – Jim Yeager
RUTLAND
5:30 p.m. Moose Lodge – Ryan Fuller

6:30 p.m. Vermont Tap House – Trivia Night

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Carnage Con:

Vermont's tabletop tradition thrives in Killington

By Nathan Douglas Gardner

KILLINGTON — Each November, as Vermont's landscape transitions from autumn's vibrant hues to the quiet calm before ski season, the Killington Grand Resort transforms into the lively hub of Carnage Con. Held over the weekend of Nov. 1-3, the event marked its 27th annual gathering, one of New England's longest-running conventions dedicated to tabletop gaming, drawing enthusiasts from Vermont and neighboring states. For three days, the resort was alive with the buzz of dice rolls, rulebook debates, and a community united by a love for gaming.

Tabletop gaming's evolution from niche to nearly mainstream now includes blockbuster adaptations of games like "Dungeons & Dragons" and conventions like Gen Con in Indiana, which attract tens of thousands. But Carnage Con maintains its small-town appeal, blending nostalgic tradition with Vermont's distinct charm. Families, longtime fans, teens, and newcomers alike come together in an event that feels at once intimate and inclusive.

The convention offers a diverse array of tabletop genres, from board games and role-playing games (RPGs) to collectible card games (CCGs), live-action role-playing (LARPs), and miniatures. Carnage Con began in 1998 in West Lebanon, New Hampshire, with a simple goal: to provide New England gamers with a welcoming space to gather and play. After a few relocations across the Upper Valley, the convention found its current home at Killington Grand in 2013, where it has flourished.

This year's vendor area featured a cozy marketplace across three rooms, with treasures for every tabletop enthusiast. Tony Vandenberg, owner of Black-moon Games in West Lebanon and winner of the 2024 Valley News Reader's Choice award, was among the exhibitors. Also featured was Springfield native Cathy Preble, who displayed hand-crocheted dolls, including a nearly two-foot frog prince crafted with over 35,000 stitches. Preble, a con circuit veteran, shared the story behind each doll, adding a personal touch to the bustling marketplace.

Attendance this year approached 960—an encouraging return toward pre-pandemic numbers, which once exceeded 1,300. Last year's attendance topped 800, reflecting a steady recovery. Scott Lasell, a USPS worker from Newport, New Hampshire, and a longtime convention organizer, was pleased with the turnout. "How many are we up to, Emily?" he asked the young woman at the registration desk. Dressed festively in a long black dress, Emily Gray, the volunteer coordinator of Carnage Con, replied, "963." Lasell nodded, satisfied, adding, "Each year, we vote on whether to continue, and 2025 is looking promising. After we went virtual, we weren't sure if people would come back."

The convention's demographics have also evolved. Once predominantly male, Carnage Con now draws an almost equal number of men and women, reflecting broader changes in the tabletop gaming community. "It's the way of things—a new generation coming in, and the con coming with them," Lasell noted.

Throughout the weekend, Carnage Con's strong sense of community was evident. Attendees celebrated milestones, including the launch of a new board game by an attendee and her fiancé, Nick, a convention regular. "There's so much to do here, and it's cozy enough where you can relax, escape, and play games," he said. Nearby, an artist showcased meticulously painted miniatures, each crafted with precision, highlighting the event's blend of creativity and camaraderie.

The Killington Grand Resort's staff also welcomed the lively atmosphere. Tyler, a three-year staff member and college student from Rutland, enjoyed the event's energy. "It's great that we're able to host something for so many people, especially when everyone's so happy to be here," he said. A D&D fan, Tyler acknowledged the convention's significance for the resort, particularly during the off-season. "This is a quieter time for us. We're glad to have them."

As tabletop gaming gains mainstream recognition, Carnage Con feels oddly nostalgic—a reminder of a time when games brought people together face-to-face, without screens, streams, or big-name sponsors. For many attendees, the event is more than a convention; it's a seasonal reunion during Vermont's dark, quiet pre-winter days.



By Nathan Douglas Gardner

At Vermont's Killington Grand Resort, 960 tabletop enthusiasts transformed the space into a gaming wonderland with three days of RPGs, CCGs, LARPs, and miniatures.



Courtesy BarnArts

Kathy Echols as Nancy Clutter and Joshua Collier perform as Truman Capote.

World Premiere of 'Truman and Nancy' debuts at Barn Opera House

Friday and Saturday, Nov. 15-16 at 7:30 p.m. — BRANDON — The world premiere of "Truman and Nancy," a one-act opera by acclaimed NYC composer William Zeffiro, will take place on Nov. 15 and 16 at the Barn Opera House in Brandon, Vermont. Inspired by the graphic novel "Capote in Kansas" by Ande Parks, the opera dives into Truman Capote's emotional journey as he grapples with his iconic work "In Cold Blood." The story reveals Capote's moral struggles and explores themes of fame, grief, and human connection as Capote encounters the spirit of Nancy Clutter, a young murder victim immortalized in his writing.

The evening is set to provide audiences with an immersive three-part experience. Kicking off the event, actress Brenda Cur-

rin—who portrayed Nancy Clutter in the 1969 film adaptation of "In Cold Blood"—will share insights from filming on location in Kansas and her meeting with Truman Capote himself. Following her conversation, graphic artist Ande Parks will present on the creative process behind Capote in Kansas and its transformation into the opera.

Concluding the evening, the characters of Truman and Nancy will take the stage, offering a powerful reflection on Capote's legacy and the personal cost of his pursuit of fame. Zeffiro's moving score accompanies Capote's inner conflict, balancing beauty and melancholy, as he confronts Nancy's spirit and the impact of his work. Through a blend of storytelling and introspective lyricism, the opera challenges audiences to consider the enduring effects of the connections we make in life.

Tickets are available at operavermont.com/trumanandnancy.

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Poultney energy fair showcases a clean, quiet food court



Courtesy of SolarFest

SolarFest powered the Fox U.S. Open Mountain race at Killington September 2024.

The town of Poultney is rallying around energy efficiency on Nov. 13 at the Young at Heart Senior Center. From 5 to 7 p.m., people can learn tips, tricks, and incentives to save energy and money.

One organization attending the event will demonstrate the real-world value of renewable energy by mobilizing solar photovoltaic power and battery storage to provide clean and quiet electricity in a unique way. SolarFest, a nonprofit organization that utilizes fun and engaging ways to showcase new and practical ways to cut carbon, will have one of their two solar trailers, with over 2 kilowatts of onboard solar panels and a large battery bank that provides up to 40-kWh of silent, fossil-free electricity to power the food court at the fair. That's plenty to power the Rollin' Rooster and the Pelletier's Maple food trucks as they provide dinner from 5- 7 p.m. to Energy Fair attendees.

The idea for mobile renewable power began in July of 1998, when the "Solar Roller" first began powering music stages in Middletown Springs, Vermont. Since then, SolarFest has powered stages at music festivals, carnivals, fairs, and even the recent Fox US Open Mountain race at Killington.

For more information about the Poultney Energy Fair, go to Poultney.vt.gov. For more information on SolarFest, go to SolarFest.org.

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The VSO Jukebox series brings intimacy and accessibility to classical music

By James Kent

There is such an excitement and enthusiasm to Matt LaRocca's voice that after speaking with him for a few minutes, one can't escape the feeling that they know him, have been friends for years, and can't wait to hang out and talk again. LaRocca curates The Vermont Symphony Orchestra's (VSO) Jukebox series, a program he helped shepherd into its existing form when it began as "Sound and Soil" in 2016. Renamed and reformulated in 2017 to the Jukebox series, these scaled-down performances are a breeding ground for experimentation and an opportunity to introduce new audiences to classical music and give seasoned audiences a chance to experience music differently than they're used to.

The current Jukebox program, "With a Little Help From Our Friends," continues LaRocca's tradition of "mixing things up" and delighting audiences with something unexpected. In this case, LaRocca and the VSO reached out to fans of the Jukebox series and asked them for their assistance in picking the musical selections. The VSO held a drawing, and six fans got to choose from a wide range of past Jukebox performances.

"The music is all awesome, and it goes all over the map," LaRocca said about the music the fans chose for this Jukebox series. "I've never seen or done anything like this before. Jukebox is one of our best avenues to experiment, and having it designed by audience members is exciting."

The program lineup for the event includes:

- Elena Kats Chernin - "Pink Breasted Robin"
- Rhiannon Giddens - "At the Purchaser's Option"
- Bryce Dessner - "Aheym"
- Peter Warlock - "Capriol Suite"
- Stevie Wonder arr. Saulnier - "Signed, Sealed, Delivered"
- Jessie Montgomery - "Strum"
- Turtle Island String Quartet - "Spider Dreams"

The VSO Jukebox quartet features:

- Brooke Quiggins-Saulnier, Violin
- Jane Kittredge, Violin
- John Dunlop, Cello
- Stefanie Taylor, Viola

LaRocca shared the premise behind Jukebox is to make concerts more intimate and informal. "We want to take a page from rock bands and make the performances more interactive," LaRocca said. "The music we play is killer, but the show feels

relaxed and comfortable."

Audiences used to the expectation of watching a symphony perform on stage from the comfort of their chosen seat in an auditorium will be in for a treat if this is their first time attending a Jukebox performance. The audience, LaRocca, and the Quartet share the same stage, with the audience in a horseshoe formation around the musicians. LaRocca said this type of setting engages the audience much differently from other VSO concerts.

"People will hang around after the show, chat with each other, the musicians," LaRocca said. "I get a chance to hear what people like and what connected with them."

Rutland's Alexis Scangas, one of the fans who got to contribute a selection to the "With a Little Help From Our Friends" program, concurred with LaRocca's sentiments. "I like the casual feel," Scangas said of attending a Jukebox series event. "It feels more like how it may have been when the songs were first written and performed. It feels like you are contributing to the experience."

Scangas, a music educator and singer, said that the intimacy of Jukebox makes the music more accessible. "It gives people the opportunity to experience music in a way that they may not otherwise experience. A lot of people get overwhelmed by the idea of classical music, and that's not necessary," Scangas noted that these composers were all just people and that series like Jukebox help break down any elitist walls that some may think, real or imagined, about classical music.

There are three opportunities to catch "With a Little Help From Our Friends": one show in Burlington, one show in South Pomfret at The Hayloft at Artistree on Nov. 14, and a final show at The Paramount Theatre in Rutland on Nov. 16. Each show will feature an introduction of some of the music selections by the winners of the drawing. Scangas will attend the Paramount Theatre show.

What's next for Jukebox? LaRocca said the VSO is already working on its next Jukebox program, which will feature interpretations of rock music, and is sure to surprise many people.

For ticket information, go to vso.org. For tickets to the Nov. 14 event at Artistree in South Pomfret, go to artistreevt.org/artistree-events. For tickets to the Nov. 16 event at the Paramount Theatre in Rutland, go to paramountvt.org.



Courtesy of the VSO

The VSO Jukebox Quartet performs at the Hayloft at Artistree on Nov. 14 and the Paramount Theatre on Nov. 16.

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Scenes from the Brandon Artists Guild's 'Merry & Bright' holiday art market, showcasing a festive array of handcrafted products by local Vermont artists, including pottery, stained glass, jewelry, and more.

Brandon Artists Guild holiday art market returns

BRANDON—The Brandon Artists Guild launched its annual Merry & Bright Holiday Art Market on Friday, Nov. 8. Now open throughout the holiday season, the market invites art lovers and holiday shoppers to explore a curated selection of unique, handcrafted items perfect for the season, including bold pottery, shimmering stained glass, jewelry, ornaments, children's gifts, and fiber arts.

As a staple of Vermont's creative community, the Bran-

don Artists Guild showcases work by more than 35 Vermont artists. Its walls are lined with a rotating display of original art. This year's "Merry & Bright" market offers something for everyone on the holiday list, supporting local artisans while bringing warmth to the winter season.

Located at 7 Center St. in downtown Brandon, the artist-run gallery is open seven days a week.

For more information, go to brandonartistsguild.org.

Farmers Market:

from page 14
redevelopment plan that VFFC is currently working on renovating the interior and exterior of Farmers Hall. Renovation work will not interfere with the Winter Farmers Market on weekends."

As renovations are completed in the coming months, the 14,000-square-foot Farmers Hall and community kitchen will be ready to rent again for community groups and culinary entrepreneurs. Production space will be available for lease to local food businesses, and the main hall will be rented for events.

Lyle Jepson, executive director of the Chamber & Economic Development of the Rutland Region stated,

"It is with excitement that we all welcome the Winter Market back to its home at the Vermont Farmers Food Center. This is a very positive step forward for the future redevelopment of this important economic driver in our region."

In addition to the Saturday Farmer's Market, the VFFC will host a holiday fair on Sunday, Dec. 8, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Vermont Farmers Food Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established by the community in 2012 to increase access to and availability of locally produced food in the Rutland County region. For more information about VFFC, go to vermont-farmersfoodcenter.org.



The Vermont Farmers Food Center celebrates the reopening of Farmers Hall, welcoming back the Winter Farmers Market after three years of environmental remediation.

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Crossword

Solutions from page 11

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R	O	C		D	A	H		G	E	L		T	E	G	
I	N	K	S		C	E	D	A	R		K	O	M	I	
A	I	S	H	A		R	A	F		E	A	R	E	D	
L	C		A	N	G	E	L	F	I	S	H		R	D	
S	A	D	N	E	S	S			E	C	O	L	O	G	Y
	L	E	E	W	A	Y			D	E	P	O	S	E	

Sudoku

Solutions from page 11

7	4	9	5	1	6	3	2	8
8	2	1	9	7	3	5	6	4
6	3	5	2	4	8	1	9	7
2	9	7	1	8	5	4	3	6
5	6	3	4	2	9	7	8	1
4	1	8	3	6	7	9	5	2
3	7	2	8	5	4	6	1	9
9	8	4	6	3	1	2	7	5
1	5	6	7	9	2	8	4	3

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Cosmic Catalogue



Aries March 21 - April 20

A different perspective or a different choice may be what you have to take on in order to change a financial situation. It may be a sudden expense or a sudden boost to the coffers; whatever it is, just be grateful. Your circumstances cannot change if you continually complain about it. Instead, if you're fed up with the status quo, that's a good thing; now, figure out what you can do about it.

Leo July 21 - August 20

Some significant choices may need to be made this week career-wise. If you don't work, it may be more about the overall direction your life is headed in. You may need to strike a balance between your efforts toward making progress alongside any health issues. It's one thing to strive for progress, but it's also another if it costs you physically. Make the choice that is right for you. You can have it all, maybe just not all at the same time.

Sagittarius November 21 - December 20

You're probably aware that a long cycle of financial transformation is coming to an end. It's not just about money, as such, either. It's also about your self-esteem and confidence in all matters regarding sustenance and abundance. This week, you may receive a wonderful blessing—a vote of confidence or a nice cash bonus. With an open heart and mind, you may realize you have so much more than you think you do.

Taurus April 21 - May 20

Life really is a series of all the choices we made, and we didn't make. They are like compound interest in the sense they add up and overflow. This week, you may get a sense of the investments you made or didn't make as the Full Moon lights up your sign. Whatever happens, you need to put your hand on your heart and make the right choice for you, even if it's not easy.

Virgo August 21 - September 20

Pushing for progress based on what you want can get you only so far. You'll likely have to go back to the drawing board if you come across a roadblock of some description. This isn't to make your life difficult; it's to help you see another point of view that you've not taken on board. In order to solve a problem, you have to think outside the box. That is, assuming you actually do want to solve the problem.

Capricorn December 21 - January 20

Venus's arrival in your sign will boost your mood, and you may feel a little bit special and joyful, too. The last several weeks have been hard and heavy, but the light is most definitely at the end of the tunnel. You have the choice to see the hardships and let them inform your future. You also have the choice to learn from them and turn the hardships into more blessings than you can possibly count. The latter is the better choice.

Gemini May 21 - June 20

You'd be forgiven if you've been a little distracted lately. This week, though, you may realize that you must be more organized than you have been. It's one thing to take on some wise counsel, but it's another to take it from anyone and everyone. Eventually, you have to make your own choices and decisions, especially if they involve your career or your overall life direction. It will help to get out of your head a bit and meditate.

Libra September 21 - October 20

Do you know what they say about change being as good as a holiday? Now that your patron planet, Venus, has changed signs, you can start to see many things from a very different point of view. In the meantime, making the smallest changes in your home environment can boost your mood. A bunch of flowers or some holiday decorations may help. If you need to repair family relationships, this could be a now-or-never time frame for you to do so.

Aquarius January 21 - February 20

Do you ever get the feeling that something will happen before it does? One thing you have to look forward to over the next 20 years is a finely tuned instinct. This week, though, you may need to spend some time resting and rejuvenating so you can let the Universe speak to you. If you need to slow down or call time out on a family or domestic matter, then do so. Tune out the noise as much as possible and focus on your inner voice.

Cancer June 21 - July 20

Your life in the relationship department has been nothing short of tests and challenges these past several weeks. Just when you thought things couldn't get worse, they actually get better. Now that Venus has arrived in your relationship zone, you can experience some sweet relief. You should now be able to see why everything has led up to this point, making it all very meaningful indeed. Your only mission is to not taint the future with the flavor of the past.

Scorpio October 21 - November 20

You know about the definition of insanity and doing the same thing over again? Right now, you have a chance to do relationships differently. It doesn't matter if you're spoken for and need to break some ingrained patterns or you're single and looking to change that. This week's message is that whatever you're currently doing will require a different approach. Don't bury your head in the sand about it, just be proactive!

Pisces February 21 - March 20

Do take some time out this week to reassess your personal goals and priorities. As the year starts to draw to a close, did you achieve what you set out to do, or did you let the multitude of distractions get in the way? You can judge your progress by the date, or you can decide that each day is a new day to improve, take action, and improve your life and everyone else around you.

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Cassandra has studied astrology for about 20 years. She is an international teacher of astrology who has been published all over the globe.

Fallen logs invigorate stream life

For 12 summers, my Vermont colleagues and I guided high school student and teacher teams researching streams as part of a National Science Foundation EPSCoR program. These teams received training in July and employed their new skills for the rest of the summer and early autumn by taking water samples and flow measurements and observing aquatic macroinvertebrate populations. They also noted the size and abundance of fallen logs in the water.

I remember students expressing curiosity about this last measurement. Why, they asked, should we bother to note the presence of logs in the water? A good way to answer that question is to consider the historical practice of clearing and straightening streams and the damage it has caused.

People have often regarded streams as primarily drainage features: ways for rainfall to exit the landscape efficiently. From this perspective, a meandering stream needs fixing. In our region, for the past several centuries, people have “improved” streams by straightening them, removing wood and other obstructions, armoring banks with riprap, and, where streams approach roads or other busy areas, diverting water into underground pipes.

The cumulative effect of these actions is that many watersheds have less capacity to absorb and slow water than they previously did. As water flows quickly, it erodes streambanks

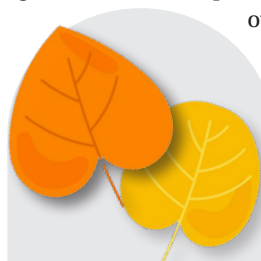
and cuts into streambeds. Water trapped within these deeply incised channels can’t spread into upland landscapes and instead rushes downhill. After heavy rains, the downstream impacts can be devastating. Excess surface water can rapidly build into powerful floods, capable of damaging homes, roads, and other infrastructure.

Torrential floods disrupt aquatic life but straightened and cleared streams harm aquatic ecosystems in other ways. We learn in grade school that a wavy line between two points is longer than a straight line; for the same reason, a meandering stream holds more water and offers more space for habitat than a straight one can. Straight,

monotonous flows provide poor living conditions for many species. For example, many fish species require slow eddies, backwaters, pools, or rocky riffles for food, shelter, and reproduction. Many insect larvae and young amphibians require pools and submerged shelters where they can hide and feed.

As in forests and streams, messiness is good. By slowing a stream’s main flow, logs can push water up over banks into the soil and eventually help straightened streams return to more natural, meandering paths through the landscape. This change reduces flooding downstream and sets the stage for more diverse aquatic habitats. As the upstream sides of logs – especially those with branches

Outside Story → 27



The Outside Story
By Declan McCabe

Recreating memories

There are many things that we do in life because of the memories that are associated with them.

When I watch garden shows on PBS or CREATE, people often say that they got into gardening when they were kids by planting and caring for gardens along with their parents. It’s fascinating for children to plant a seed and watch its journey as it turns into a vegetable. It teaches them where food comes from. Food may be purchased from the shelves of a grocery store, but when you actually grow the vegetables, you are educated about their origin.

When I was 8, my parents bought the lot next to our house. The engineering “plat map” for Howard Avenue shows all lots as 50 x 150 feet. If houses were built that close together, there would be no privacy. That prompted my mother and father to purchase the empty lot next to our house back in 1952 and eliminate the possibility of a house very close to ours. Since my husband and I now live in the house, I am glad for the extra land.

They discussed how to use the lot. Would

they just mow it as a side lawn or establish a garden there? My father came up with the ideal solution: The front half would be a lawn, and the back half would be a vegetable garden. Establishing both of those was a lot of work, but the end result was worth it.

My father built a picket fence with an arbor in the center to separate the two sections. The front area had a nicely mowed lawn, often with a croquet set or badminton net on it. It became a neighborhood gathering place for both kids and adults. The back section became a vegetable garden. I planted seeds alongside my dad and was fascinated as they turned into cucumbers, beans, tomatoes, etc. There were even a few rows of corn that made a great place for us to play “hide and seek.” We shared any extra veggies with neighbors and friends.

I think those childhood experiences are partly responsible for my love of gardening and sharing extra veggies with others. I put them in a box on a small table under a city tree near the sidewalk. There is a “Help Yourself” sign on the box, and by

Looking Back → 27



Looking Back
By Mary Ellen Shaw

Under the full moon

Just when you hoped the dust would settle, the Cosmos will kick it up again.

This week’s Full Moon happens with Uranus, the planet of surprises, shocks, and changes. If you have a wise eye on the situation, then chances are, you might be shocked but not necessarily surprised. This will be the case if you see things as they are, not what you project onto them.

For others, events will be shocking and surprising. These people are less likely to cope with what happens.

Despite all this, you do have a choice.

You can get caught in the crossfire, or you can heed the message the stars have to offer. This isn’t the time to be a deer in the headlights. It’s time to be aware that circumstances have changed, and it’s time to take action. Bleating in the internet echo chamber is probably not the way to go about it.

Look at your life. What can you do honestly and pragmatically to improve it? Rather than complaining about grievances, what can you do to bring the blessing and benefit to yourself and other people by taking affirmative action?



Cosmic Catalogue
By Cassandra Tyndall

‘Anora’ deconstructs the Cinderella narrative

Anora is an exotic dancer at a Manhattan strip club. She dabbles in sex work on the side if the money’s right, and she’s interested enough in the man. At the club, she meets a young, immature son of a Russian oligarch. Anora, who goes by Ani, gets the assignment because she lives in the predominantly Russian Brighton Beach section of Brooklyn and speaks a bit of Russian courtesy of her non-English-speaking grandmother.

It doesn’t take long for Anora to make a connection with the son, Ivan “Vanya” Zakharov, who offers her \$15,000 to spend a week exclusively with him.

Does this plot sound familiar? Have you ever heard of a little film from 1990 called “Pretty Woman?” That film used a similar premise: a Hollywood strip sex worker, played by Julia Roberts, gets a \$3,000 offer to spend six days with a corporate merger tycoon, Richard Gere. The film is pure fantasy, a classic Cinderella story, where a down-on-her-luck princess-in-waiting has her dreams come true in the form of the ultimate Prince Charming, Richard Gere. Today, the very thought of this plot is beyond embarrassing, and the sanitization of Roberts’ profession in the movie was embarrassing back in 1990. I can attest that when I saw the film in college on a plutonic date with a girlfriend, I was left gobsomack that by the end of the movie, every woman in the audience, my movie date included, was bawling her eyes out. Hollywood knows what works.

Any comparisons between “Pretty Woman” and director Sean Baker’s more nuanced, graphic, and realistic approach to sex workers in “Anora” begin and stop after Ani and Vanya’s week together begins. For 45 minutes, we, the audience, get caught up in the whirlwind romance between two young and relatively immature kids in their early 20s who go from a sex-for-hire contract to genuine feelings. As

messed up as this spoiled rich Vanya kid is, there is something likable about him. Underneath the wild, “let’s party” façade of this man/boy left alone in a Brighton Beach mansion while his parents leave him in the hands of “minders” while they stay back in Russia, Vanya, played to great effect by Russian actor Mark Eydelshiteyn garners empathy. Although we, the audience, don’t believe for one minute that Ani and Vanya will have any hope for a lasting relationship, we buy that, in the vortex of a wild week together, they do. And when Vanya sweeps Ani away for an impromptu party session in Las Vegas and then proposes marriage while there, we buy into the impulsiveness. The pair get married, and now all that’s left for this nouveau princess, Ani, to do is quit her job at the strip club and ride off into a Brighton Beach sunset.

But as this film is two hours and 20 minutes long, and everything I’ve described happens in the first 45 minutes, things won’t be this happy, tidy, or smooth sailing. What occurs in the film’s next hour and 35 minutes elevates the movie from a pretty good time to something of a film masterpiece.

Sean Baker, whose previous films focused on sex workers and other human beings on the fringes of society, looking to scratch and claw their way into some successful life, fires on an elevated level here with “Anora.” Shooting on 35mm film with the dreamy lighting of cinematographer Drew Daniels, Baker isn’t afraid to go handheld to capture the film’s immediacy. The film doesn’t look like a documentary, but at times, it feels like one because the performances in the movie rise above the standard approach to acting. Baker, performing double duties as editor, also selects all the right shots. Everything in this film feels purposeful as if it was supposed to be there. Baker draws you into the story without

Screens and Streams → 26



Screens and Streams
By James Kent

Take a Chance on Me

I've spent years interviewing candidates for various jobs. I've done it so much that I can generally tell within minutes of meeting someone whether or not they are going to fit in. In my profession, you have to be able to "talk the talk," and if you're not keeping up with my questions and observations, then you're likely not right for the role. There's simply no hiding from it.

Sometimes, when I reach the end of a positive interview, I'll ask one unique question just to keep things light and to gain a better perspective on the individual's personality. (If you don't get this question, I'm definitely not interested in you.)

The question is: Name your three favorite musical artists.

The exercise is interesting because some people try to predict what I might want to hear or what I might consider acceptable, while others try to reply with their honest

picks. Sometimes, I can actually see the candidate sizing me up while they try to discern what the gray-haired old man on the other side of the desk would consider a good answer.

Years ago, I had one young man come in who looked fairly buttoned up and serious. However, after we finished talking and I posed the music question, he confidently told me that his favorite band was Insane Clown Posse. At the time, I had never heard of them, so after he left, I looked them up. To this day, I've never witnessed a greater mismatch between a person's outward appearance and personality and musical preferences.

There was one instance where I posed the music question, and the candidate was foolish enough to say he didn't like music and couldn't answer me. Sensing that he misunderstood, I added that it didn't have

Movie Diary → 27



The Movie Diary
By Dom Cioffi

Memories of the early days of Killington

Please enjoy this story of how a 25-year-old Armenian farm kid from Methuen, Massachusetts, became Killington's head engineer, responsible for building ski lifts, base lodges, snowmaking, and whatever else was needed as Killington overcame incredible challenges to get off the ground. Now, in my 80s, the memories of those turbulent, exciting days remain vibrant, and for those who might be curious, I'm sharing them with you.

Any discussion about Killington's early days should include Perry Merrill. In 1954, Perry H. Merrill, known as the Father of Vermont's State Parks, wanted to see a ski resort developed on Killington Peak, the second-highest mountain in Vermont. Preston (Pres) Leete Smith agreed to work with him to develop this area. Merrill was the driving force behind the State of Vermont building the Killington access road from Route 4. The state also built and leased back the base lodge to the then-Sherburne Corporation. Killington opened on Dec. 13, 1958. Times were different back then. I heard stories about the herculean task of building Killington 1 ski lift with Pres leading the crew that first winter.

Having been discharged from the military in November 1965, a friend and I traveled up Route 4 to go skiing at Stowe. Before the days of Route 89, Route 4 was the only way to get there. We were running late by the time we reached Bill's Country Store, and rather than continue, we decided to ski Killington for the afternoon. On a whim, I stopped a ski patrolman and asked if they were looking for any help. He told me to go see George Wesson, who was in a lift shack atop Snowden. I found

George and explained to him that I had just been discharged from the military and would like to work part-time while I looked for a consulting engineer's job in Boston.

"Which military service?" George asked.

"Army," I said.

"What branch?"

"Medical Service Corps."

I provided all the correct answers, as George had served in the Army's 10th Mountain Division.

"You know all about this stuff, being from the Medical Service Corp. Come back at four o'clock and ski the sweep with me."

George assumed I had been a medic. In reality, I was more of an administrator, serving as an environmental health engineer.

George was very understated and mild-mannered. He was not very tall but skied on 220s

and could glide down the mountain with an injured skier on his back—thanks to his 10th Mountain Division training. After the lifts closed, we started down the North Star trail, with George skiing ahead of me doing wide Arlberg ski turns. I followed him until he stopped at the edge of a steep drop-off.

"Do you want me to ski ahead of you now?" I asked.

"Oh no, I've been watching you as I made my wide turns. Asking anyone to ski ahead of you can cause an accident. You're hired. Show up at 7:30 a.m. at Killington 1. Your pay will be \$1.50 per hour. You can stay at the staff lodge for \$1.00 per night, and you get 50% off at the lunch counter."

What a great deal! With an undergraduate

Slippery Slopes → 28



Slippery Slopes
By James Kachadorian

Guided by scent: Rediscovering the outdoors through smell

As the rain began, we chose to keep paddling. We were on the far side of the reservoir, so it would be at least another hour until we could make it back to the Leffert's side of the reservoir anyway. The rain continued, leaving little pockmarks on the water and reminding us that maybe next time, we should check the weather report before heading out onto the water. It was getting darker fast, and the pinks and purples of sunset lasted about 10 minutes before we were submerged in darkness. Not enough darkness that we needed to turn our headlamps on, but enough that we had to really focus on finding the launch site in the shadows.

When the rain began, we were in the back cove, where you can often head off into a narrow passageway. It has gotten boggier over the past decade, but when the water is deep enough...but that wasn't the point this time. The rain had opened up the world. Instead of making us feel rushed or hurried, the forest instead embraced us with its aroma.

The opening up of the canopy and the falling of the leaves onto the ground expose the forest floor to the sky. Stick seasons don't just mean a changing of the views, as we can now see through to what has always been behind the trees. With the rain now reaching the forest floor, it is able to soak into the ground and wet the leaves below.

A musty smell rose from the shoreline, al-

most embracing us in its power. The strength of the scent engulfed us. It was surely one of the few times it had rained over the past few weeks, and it was staggering. This smell, trapped beneath the thick canopy all summer long, was now free of its covering and allowed to be released. It was awesome except for the whole overwhelming part.

It reminded me of a hike I took with a young friend. Our pre-kindergarten at KES has Forest Fridays, where the teachers take the kids outside, and they get to explore nature. It's a good Vermont-y type of schooling. Learn what is around you, learn to celebrate it, and keep it close to your heart. It makes me proud.

And so my young friend had to teach me what they had just learned that past week: smelling the forest. It was, without a doubt, the longest, shortest hike I have ever been on. We had to smell everything. And by smelling, I mean putting our noses as close to things as we could and inhaling the very essence of that thing. From trees to piles of leaves to mud to rotting plants, we smelled everything that day.

In an era where photographs and video are everything, we often forget that we even have other senses. When we see these images of faraway lands, we cannot smell them. We don't know if the air is clean, dingy, musty,

Living the Dream → 29



Living the Dream
By Merisa Sherman



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Screens & Streams:

from page 24

being overly flashy. At times, I was unaware that I was watching a film at all, so engrossed I was with the characters on screen and the storytelling.

Once word gets out that Vanya is married, with the rumor circulating through his handlers that he's married a "prostitute," the plot ramps up. There is a 25-minute sequence when Vanya's parents send his handlers to find out what's going on at the mansion; that is some of the most intense, surprising, and unexpected moments I've seen on film in quite a long time. They present a challenge for me—how do I tell you how amazing these 25 minutes are and not spoil the surprises? Well, it's easy: I won't.

From these 25 minutes, Baker takes the audience on a further journey, an absurdist hunt for a missing character that provides an opportunity to get to know side characters one doesn't usually get to learn about in this type of movie, and cements this film as one of the true cinematic gems of the 21st Century.

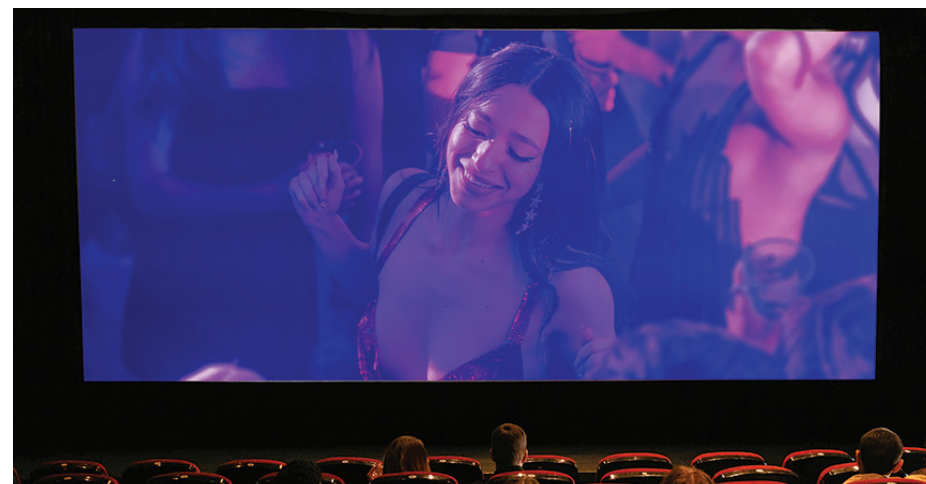
There isn't a bad performance in this film. As good as everyone in the movie is, the best reason to see this film is what I've been leading up to—Mikey Madison. Madison is an actress known for playing Pamela Adlon's oldest daughter in the television show, "Better Things." She also played Susan "Sadie" Atkins in Quentin Tarantino's "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood," and she was also in 2022's "Scream." But as the titular character Anora, Madison showcases her acting talents in a performance that is nothing shy of a masterclass tour de force. Every emotion she's asked to play, every risk she must take in this performance, Madison goes there. A clear trust between actor and director comes across the screen here thanks to Madison's go-for-broke performance and Baker's superb direction. The risks Madison is willing to take with this performance reminds me of a similar risk-taker in Emma Stone's wonderful creation of Bella Baxter in last year's "Poor Things."

Madison's Anora is a sex worker, but she is no trope or victim. And throughout her character's journey, she maintains her agency from the first frame to the last. Anora buys into the Cinderella fantasy for as long as the carriage ride lasts, but she is at her ferocious best when the carriage turns into a pumpkin. It may be a while before I see a performance or a film that's this good again.

A warning for the squeamish: "Anora" is graphic in its depiction of sex. It won't be for everyone. There were four walkouts during the screening I attended, although those came during those brilliant, intense twenty-five minutes I've mentioned, not during the sex scenes.

"Anora" is playing in theaters, although not in Vermont. The Roxy in Burlington, which was going to show it, shuttered its doors on Thursday, Nov. 7, another loss for Vermont moviegoers.

James Kent is the publisher's assistant at The Mountain Times and the co-host of the "Stuff We've Seen" podcast at stuffweweseen.com. If you have a film or television show you'd like him to review, please email him at editor@mountaintimes.info.



Mikey Madison is "Anora."

Courtesy of Neon films

← **Movie Diary**
from page 25

to be a singer or band but could also be a composer or instrumentalist. His reply, foolishly, was the same. I didn't say it out loud, but my brain was thinking, "If you can't find one appealing artist in the entire category of music, I'm pretty sure we can't work together."

I also remember a young female candidate who seemed shy and reserved during the interview. Still, once I posed the music question, she rattled off a number of lurid rap artists who seemed wildly dissonant with her demeanor. She must have sensed my confusion because she quickly started apologizing. I began to laugh and assured her that I liked plenty of inappropriate rap music as well.

She was brave enough to ask what my answers were. When I mentioned Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin, and the Beatles, she looked at me sheepishly and admitted that she had never heard of them. "Never heard of the Beatles?" (Believe it or not, I still hired her.)

I knew I was getting old when several female job seekers included a young country singer named Taylor Swift on their lists. At the time, I barely recognized the name, so I looked her up. I thought she was cute and poppy but unremarkable, concluding that she would likely fade from the public view in a relatively short time. (I nailed that one!)

Of course, the greatest answer of all came from a chubby college graduate who I really liked. His personality was upbeat and positive, but what I remember most was how naturally funny he was. The kid was actually brave enough to do several

impersonations for me when I noticed he included them on his resume as "Hidden Talents."

I was tempted to hire him on the spot, but the music question completely derailed him. Instead of naming his three favorite artists, he went into a long dissertation about his dream of being in a boy band and how he was likely an untapped musical prodigy. In a matter of minutes, this kid went from a quirky 20-year-old schoolboy to a full-fledged nutjob. That, sadly, was the end of that.

While Abba is not one of my top three favorite artists, the Swedish quartet does hold a special place in my heart (since I grew up in the 1970s when they reigned supreme). This week's feature, "Abba: 50 Years Since Eurovision," is a conventional new documentary that explores the band's unique rise to stardom to become one of the most commercially successful musical acts in history.

This film does an excellent job covering the high points of Abba's career in a relatively short running time. Don't expect any new material, as the content is mostly based on historical footage. It's not like the world needed another Abba documentary, but there's never enough if you're a true fan.

Check this one out if you're looking for a reason to reignite your love for Abba. I guarantee you'll be singing by the end.

Now available to stream on Amazon Prime Video, a catchy "B-" for "Abba: 50 Years Since Eurovision."

Got a question or comment for Dom? You can email him at moviediary@att.net.



Submitted

ABBA

← **Outside Story:**
from page 24

still attached – accumulate fallen leaves and other debris, these surfaces offer shelter and food for macroinvertebrates and other organisms. Some fallen trees form partial dams and with these, deep, substantial pools and sand bars. In a complex underwater habitat of submerged branches, trunks, piled sand, and other features, macroinvertebrates and fish can shelter in slackwater areas.

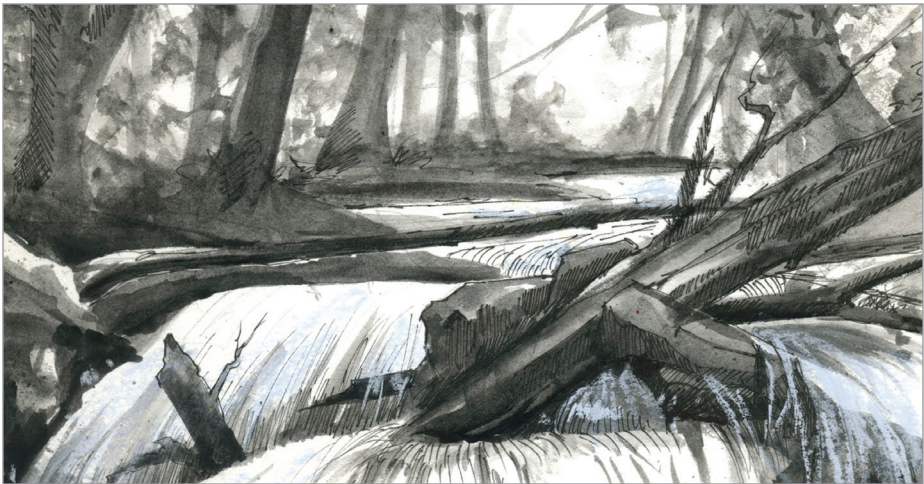
Wood also serves as a filter, removing gravel, sand, and silt from the water column. Sediments and organic materials that accumulate among branches on stream beds store nutrients that might otherwise contribute to downstream eutrophication. In this way, the presence of wood in streams helps protect downstream lakes from algal and cyanobacteria blooms.

Submerged wood is also important as a direct food source. More than 20 species of aquatic invertebrates in our region rely directly on wood for food. These so-called "miners" tunnel into underwater logs and branches, consuming wood as they go. They include the larvae of beetles, mayflies, caddisflies, stoneflies, and true flies and collectively play a critical role in the aquatic food web.

So, why document logs in streams?

Because the presence of wood in the water is a key indicator of stream health. Wood is so essential to aquatic systems that stream restoration practitioners often focus on adding wood features as a way to heal damaged waterways. Although this work requires expert planning and permits – no one reading this article should rush out to drop logs into the stream – there are ways all of us can help promote natural restoration. We can avoid the temptation to "clean up" stream banks and allow trees, broken branches, and leaves to accumulate in water naturally. We can also encourage friends and family to reconsider the old aesthetic preference for straight, fast-flowing streams and distinguish between true trash and natural debris. By all means, remove tires and abandoned shopping carts from your neighborhood stream, but when given a choice, let sleeping dogs lie.

Declan McCabe teaches biology at Saint Michael's College and is the author of "Turning Stones: Discovering the Life of Water" (Down East Books, 2024). Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol. The Outside Story is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: nhcf.org.



← **Looking Back:**
from page 24

the end of the day, the box is empty! Most of the "takers" are people who walk in our neighborhood. I don't usually see who they are, but a couple of people stopped when they saw me working outside to tell me they love finding the box.

I've done the majority of my gardening in my retirement years. That gives me even more appreciation for my father being a full-time pharmacist when he established his garden and built the fence and arbor that extended over a 50-foot area. I never thought about how handy he was until the "adult me" took a look back at that period.

When I was young, my mother was into crocheting, embroidery, and knitting. She would pick up a project every night and work on it while watching TV. I was taught to do all those things when I was old enough. I didn't enjoy crocheting, but I have wonderful reminders of my mother's talent because I kept her doilies and a dining room

tablecloth. Knitting was not my thing either! Embroidery turned out to be something I enjoy. I started with cross-stitch but soon found that the embroidery designs were much prettier. I went from samplers to table runners, pillowcases, towels, baby quilts, and bibs. Eventually, I ran out of people to give the items to, and craft shows provided the opportunity for me to keep doing embroidery. I work on the items while I watch TV, just as my mother did.

The memory of my mother cooking and baking made me want to recreate some of her favorites as I got older. Many of her recipes are on index cards, and seeing her writing as I make things is like a step back in time.

Take a look back at some of the things you enjoyed the most today, and you will realize that you are recreating the pleasures of your early years. What a fun way to keep those memories alive!

←

Slippery Slopes:
from page 25

degree from WPI, a graduate degree from MIT, and three years in the military in Germany, having achieved a captain's rank, I decided to sign up for Killington Ski Patrol. Oh well, I thought, it was beer money and free skiing while I looked for a real job down country.

In those days, ski patrolmen would hang out atop Snowden when the weather was crumby. During one of these sessions, huddled around the woodstove in the ski patrol shack, George asked me what I did in "real life." I told him I was a civil engineer.

"Oh, we're looking for a civil engineer. I'll get you an appointment with Pres Smith (Preston Leete Smith)."

I had zero interest in seeking that job as Killington was living from minute to minute and through one crisis after another. The ski lifts routinely stopped working, and due to a lack of auxiliary power on the lifts, the skiers had to be roped off the chairs. It was all hands on deck when a lift broke down. The staff proceeded under each chair and hurled a rope up and over the lift cable. The skiers had to climb over the back of the chair and basically rappel down.

Snowcats routinely rolled over as any employee could drive off with one, including ski school instructors and ski patrolmen. The snowmaker on Snowshed didn't work. It would only blow for a few hours before a pipe would burst, spewing water across the slopes and leaving them glazed over with ice. The upper trails were entirely dependent on Mother Nature. When it snowed, the ski patrol and ski bums packed the steeper trails manually. Yes, ski bums. You could get free skiing if you volunteered to pack the trails by side-stepping down the slope. A roller, made from corrugated pipe, hauled behind a Tucker Snow Cat packed the less steep trails.

George announced that he had set up an appointment for me to meet with Pres. I felt obligated to George as he had gratuitously hired me. Nevertheless, I skipped the appointment and returned to Boston to continue my job search. When I returned the following weekend, George was not pleased with me and said he had rescheduled a second interview with Pres.

When I met with Pres, he had a list of 50 questions. His understanding of what engineers did seemed based on the surveys he'd observed laying out the Killington access road. Asking a civil engineer about surveying is like asking an electrical engineer about the specifics of how to wire a house. But it just so happened I worked as a land surveyor during college. So, to Pres's amazement, I answered all his surveying questions and even embellished a

few answers. In the last part of the interview, Pres handed me a tramway report on a failure that occurred on Killington 1. He said to study it, and he would return to discuss it. When he returned, I was reading one of his ski magazines.

"Did you read it?" He said.

"Yes, I did."

"You don't seem very impressed."

I explained that the report was thorough and that the failure was going to occur again.

"How so?" He said.

"The lift failed because the workmen who were repairing it loaded it in a way it was not designed for. The report did not address the root cause of the problem and had not instructed the workmen on how to properly repair the lift should the need arise again."

That was it. Pres offered me the job. I told him I would think it over. A week passed, and I still hadn't responded, so Pres upped the salary. These negotiations continued until he made an offer I couldn't refuse: a \$10,000.00 job offer! Getting a 5-figure job offer in 1965 was substantially more than most starting engineers were making. Pres hired me on, saying that if I didn't do anything else at Killington, I had to make the dysfunctional snowmaker work.

By December of 1965, at age 25, I was in charge of everything that moved at Killington, with the exception of the ski school (which was headed by Karl Pfeiffer). Pres was 35, tall, and in excellent physical condition. He was hard to keep up with when we periodically walked the trail system. He made up for what he lacked in management and technical expertise with pure perseverance. His usual solution to a problem was to push harder. It was his drive that got Killington started and to where it was when I arrived. We used to joke that the way to keep Pres occupied was to give him a concrete wall to push against! I remember the first time he invited me to dinner at his Killington home. A live tree was growing in the middle of the living room adjacent to a small natural pool. The dining room table looked like a picnic bench. He had put it all on the line to start Killington. And I was the kid responsible for keeping it going.

Slippery Slopes is an ongoing series written by James Kachadorian about the early days of Killington. Look for future installments each week in the Mountain Times.



Courtesy of James Kachadorian

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← **Living the Dream:**
from page 25

or fresh. We don't even let the aroma of the image come anywhere near us. How often have you watched a cooking video online and never once smelled the onion?

So here nature was, punching us in the face with her smells. And we were blown away. We stopped paddling for a moment and let the smells whirl around us on the breeze. As the light faded and our vision reduced, we used the smells to determine how far away we were from shore. We let our noses guide us home. It was a rare feat but one we were excitedly able to accomplish.

Since then, I have been trying to smell more. To use more nose more. I'm definitely not very good at it. I can tell when the air is crisp and clean and winter versus the heavy, thick, moist air of the height of summer. But I'm not very good at sniffing out the one moldy item in the barn. The BF found it right away. I realize I need to do some olfactory

training, where I take four different scents (rose, lemon, cloves, and eucalyptus) and smell them for 10-20 seconds, 1-2 times a day. These rituals are supposed to help re-train your sense of smell and strengthen your ability to determine different scents. And if you do this after exercising, it's even more powerful, as your sense of smell is heightened at that time.

I cannot wait to notice the smell at the bottom of the gondola and then breathe in the cool air at the summit of Killington. I need to see the difference in the thickness of the air and the complete and utter change of environment that the snowmakers have built for us at the top of the mountain. See you all for opening day!

Merisa is a long-time Killington Resident, Global Real Estate Advisor, and Coach Pom-Pom. She can be reached at Merisa.Sherman@SothebysRealty.com



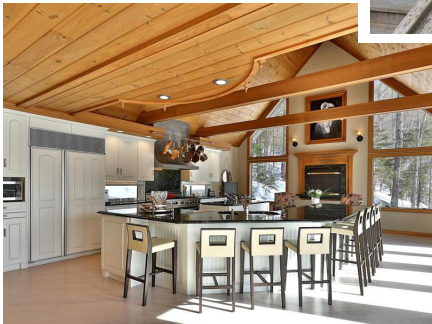
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Notice for Citizen Participation in New Town Manager Interviews

The Killington Selectboard is currently seeking one (1) citizen to participate in the initial interviews for our new Town Manager. Approximately five (5) interviews are expected to occur during the week of December 16th. These interviews will take place during business hours.

There will be an Interview Committee comprised of two (2) Killington Selectboard members, two (2) Killington Town staff members, and one (1) Killington citizen.

Letters of interest must be sent to the Interim Town Manager, Tom Yennerell, by December 6th at townmanager@killingtontown.com. Please explain why you want to participate in the interview process, how you are qualified to do so, and any other pertinent information you would like to provide.



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